

Likud meets Labour demands

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc decided Monday to offer two senior cabinet ministers to the rival Labour Party, in what could be a major step towards ending Labour into a joint government. Likud leaders said, Shamir met Monday night with Labour's leaders, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in the first meeting between the political rivals since Israel's Nov. 1 elections. Peres was later scheduled to meet leaders in his own party to discuss reopening negotiations for a broad-based government, similar to the joint Likud-Labour coalition that has ruled Israel since 1984. The latest offer from Likud comes after Shamir's efforts to construct a coalition with small religious and right-wing parties stalled, following squabbles over cabinet posts and demands for religious legislation. The 10 Likud ministers decided at a two-hour meeting Monday to offer Labour the defence ministry as well as either the finance ministry or the foreign ministry, said Welfare Minister Moshe Katzav of Likud. Labour broke off coalition talks last week because Likud refused to offer Labour more than one senior cabinet post.

Jordan Times

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Israeli Arabs to appeal to U.N.

TEL AVIV (R) — Leaders of Israel's 600,000 Arab minority, in an unprecedented move Monday, said they will complain to the United Nations that government authorities discriminate against Arabs. "We decided to send a memorandum to the U.N. and if there is no change in conditions for Israeli Arabs within a few months, we will send a delegation to New York," said Abdul Wahab Darawshe, an Arab parliament member. He said the Arab Monitoring Committee, a group of prominent local Arabs, would also push for Israeli recognition of a Palestinian state. Israeli Arabs complain they are treated like second-class citizens and their municipalities receive less funding than Jewish towns. They say they are barred from some jobs on "security" grounds and claim police treat them like allies of hostile Palestinian groups. Militants among them were angered earlier this month when the government demolished 15 unauthorized houses in Taibe. The action sparked three days of protests in the town and they staged a massive strike the following week.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Iran executes 9 in corruption case

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Monday it had executed nine people, including six clergymen, for forming "corrupt bands" and other political corruption offences. The Iranian news agency IRNA said they included Omid Najafabadi, a former revolutionary judge and member of parliament. He was arrested two years ago in a political subversion case linked to a relative of Iran's designated future leader, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri. Mehdi Hasebani, brother of Montazeri's son-in-law, and several accomplices were executed last year for murder, kidnapping and subversion. IRNA said the nine were sentenced by the special court of the clergy and executed over the past three weeks.

Kabul seeks return of 30 bodies

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Kabul government Monday asked Pakistan to return the bodies of 30 people it says were killed when an Afghan plane was shot down nine days ago after it strayed into Pakistani airspace. Kabul Radio said authorities in the Afghan capital had asked Islamabad to allow an Afghan commercial aircraft to pick up the remains. Kabul said Pakistan shot the plane down Nov. 19 killing all 30 on board after ignoring a distress call from the pilot who had lost his way. Pakistani officials said the plane was a military aircraft shot down by ground fire as it flew over a tribal area in the north-west.

Franco-Soviet spacecraft docks with Mir

MOSCOW (R) — A Soyuz TM-7 spacecraft with a joint French-Soviet crew on board successfully docked with the Mir space station Monday, the news agency TASS said. The spacecraft, with Frenchman Jean-Loup Chrétien and Soviet cosmonaut Alexander Volkov and Sergei Krikalyov on board, blasted off from the Baikonur space station in Soviet Central Asia Saturday. TASS said the docking took place at 8.16 p.m. Moscow time (1716 GMT) and that all six crew members aboard both the Soyuz spacecraft and the Mir space station were well.

Welsh group claims firebomb attacks

LONDON (AP) — A Welsh extremist group claimed responsibility Monday for incendiary bomb attacks which damaged five London real estate agencies. "More attacks will follow unless the English leave Wales," a man claiming to represent the "Sons of Glyndwr" warned in a telephone call to the office of a national newspaper in the Welsh capital of Cardiff. The Sons of Glyndwr, named after a Welsh hero, have claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on real estate agents near the Welsh border to protest against the sale of rural Welsh property to English buyers.

Mousavi seen in public despite arrest report

NICOSIA (AP) — Diplomatic sources in Tehran said Monday that Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Mousavi was apparently still in office despite a British newspaper report that he had been forced to resign and was under house arrest. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity in telephone contacts by the Associated Press in Nicosia, said Mousavi was seen attending official functions in the Iranian capital last Thursday. The London Observer newspaper, quoting unidentified sources in Tehran, reported Sunday that Mousavi, 47, was forced out last week after days of political wrangling among Iranian leaders. Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, is expected to be the new prime minister, the newspaper said.

Ozal begins visit to France

PARIS (AP) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal arrived Monday for a three-day official visit, the first by a Turkish leader in 17 years. Turkish officials said the purpose of the visit is to normalise relations between the two countries and press Turkey's application for membership in the European Economic Community. Ozal, who came from Strasbourg where he met West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Sunday night, was met by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. The Turkish leader, accompanied by his wife, headed for the Elysee Palace and talks with President Francois Mitterrand. During his stay Ozal also will see Prime Minister Michel Rocard and other French ministers.

Tamir's Soviet trip unauthorised

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli foreign ministry is concerned that a visit to Moscow by its director-general, Abraham Tamir, could provoke a diplomatic embarrassment because it was not authorised by the Israeli government, ministry officials said Monday. Tamir, who arrived in Moscow Sunday for a 36-hour visit to consult Israel's consular delegation there, is the highest-ranking Israeli to visit since the Kremlin cut ties with the Zionist state after the 1967 war. But officials said the trip was not coordinated with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres or other government leaders and provoked angry reactions. "Mr. Peres wasn't happy. He was very surprised," one foreign ministry official said on condition of anonymity. "We only heard about this visit shortly after Mr. Tamir took off." He apparently thought there was no need to coordinate it because it was a visit of a technical nature... but not everyone in the ministry agreed with this view."

Bush retains Fitzwater as spokesman

WASHINGTON (R) — President-elect George Bush Monday said Martin Fitzwater would remain as White House press secretary in his administration. "I look forward to working again with Martin," Bush said in the White House briefing room. "I think he's the best." Fitzwater, who was appointed as White House press secretary in January 1987 after serving Bush as vice-presidential spokesman for two years, said he looked forward to serving in the new administration.

Rafsanjani rejects Carter plea

NICOSIA (R) — Iran repeated Monday that it had rejected a plea by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to help free American hostages in Lebanon. The Iranian news agency IRNA reported that Iran's top politician, Ali Akbar Hasebani Rafsanjani, had sent a reply to Carter asking: "How can America expect us to intervene for its benefit in a case which has nothing to do with us while America continues its hostile policy against the Islamic revolution." Carter's plea, made in letters last month to Iranian leaders, had already been rejected by Rafsanjani and Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Hirohito given another transfusion

TOKYO (AP) — Palace physicians gave Emperor Hirohito yet another blood transfusion Monday to help maintain the 87-year-old monarch's fading strength, the Imperial Household Agency reported. Palace spokesman Kenji Maeda told reporters that Hirohito received 200 cubic centimetres of blood although he has not coughed up nor discharged blood since Thursday. Maeda said the monarch sleeps most of the time and rarely speaks, but declined to discuss further details. Hirohito also suffers from anemia and jaundice caused by obstruction of the bile duct. With Monday's transfusion, Hirohito has received a total of 21,615 cubic centimetres of blood since the onset of the crisis on Sept. 19.

Extravagance is not a personal issue but rather a cost incurred by society at large. Our experience demonstrates importance of self-reliance and need to build up national potential

King opens national development conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Monday that the next phase in Jordan would be marked by economic corrective measures, readjustment and comprehensive adaptation to changing circumstances.

Addressing a "comprehensive development conference" held at the Royal Cultural Centre, the King also called on consumers and investors to be more conservative and thrifty. "Overspending will reflect on us negatively," the King said. Pointing out that both consumers and investors had been wasteful, the King said: "We always have to bear in mind that a feasible investment project is one that becomes operational at the lowest possible cost." Jordan is rich with qualified and skilled people who will enable their countrymen to achieve self-sufficiency and attain further levels of progress and prosperity, despite the present difficulties and hardships, the King said. The past hardships which the country faced and the different crises it encountered contributed to the creation of a nation with strong determination, cohesion and resolve to deal with all issues and attain the aspired goals, the King told the meeting which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the prime minister, ministers, and representatives of development councils in the north, central and southern Jordan.

Following are major excerpts from the King's speech (full text of the speech will appear in Wednesday's issue of the Jordan Times):

"I entrusted my brother His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Ibn Talal, with the responsibility of reconstruction and development. With his dynamism



His Majesty King Hussein Monday addresses a two-day comprehensive development conference in Amman (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

and vitality, dedication and depth of knowledge he was able to rally devoted citizens and mobilise them the positive values of hard work and perseverance. Thus Jordan was able to steer itself in the right direction and to maintain sustained economic growth. We were also able to pass through the challenges that accompanied the boom years which coincided with the rise in the price of oil. During that



Ingredients that are necessary for decent living, including food, shelter, medical care and social security.

"What we have achieved, with God's help, to date has placed us at the threshold of a new era which we are about to enter with confidence. One of the most important prerequisites for success at this stage is to build on the positive and discard the negative. We must also recall the political

environment in which we live. The Jordanian society has not molded itself in inflexible frames nor has it resorted to extremism. It has not wavered from its centrist and moderate line, and the relationship between the governor and the governed is one that rests of mutual trust and understanding. With God's help, we have averted social ills in that it is possible for any individual to climb up the social ladder if he is able and creative. This healthy and stable atmosphere (Continued on page 2)

King, Klibi discuss Lebanon, move to shift U.N. session

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi Monday briefed His Majesty King Hussein on the results of contacts by the Arab League on convening a meeting of the Arab League Foreign Ministers Council to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

The King and Klibi, who arrived here earlier in the day, also reviewed Jordan's efforts to move the U.N. General Assembly session on Palestine to Geneva from New York, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The King and Klibi discussed "Arab efforts and the Jordanian diplomatic initiative, in coordination with Arab countries, to move the meeting on Palestine to the European headquarters of the U.N. in Geneva instead of New York so that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat can address the international community and explain the Palestinian position," Petra said.

The Jordanian move came after the U.S. refused an entry visa to Arafat to address the

U.N. in New York.

Petra said Klibi also briefed the King "on the outcome of his latest contacts on holding an emergency session of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council to discuss the situation in Lebanon."

The King's meeting with Klibi was attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

During his stay here, Klibi was also expected to meet with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

In an arrival statement, Klibi praised Jordan's "courageous and sincere efforts" to unify Arab ranks and support collective Arab action.

Klibi said Arab countries were in dire need for such efforts and that his visit to Amman came within the framework of his contacts to initiate Arab action on Lebanon.

He said he would also discuss the dimensions of the American refusal of a visa to Arafat. He characterised the U.S. refusal as a flagrant violation of the 1947 agreement between the U.S. and the United Nations under which the world body set up its headquarters in New York.

Israelis demolish homes amid paralysing strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A general strike paralysed the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Monday and Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least three Palestinians in the West Bank city of Nablus.

The Israeli army also used the strike to carry out demolitions of Palestinian activists in the village of Al Kadr near Bethlehem. The number of buildings destroyed was not immediately known since the army had clamped a curfew on the village and denied entry to journalists.

More than 300,000 residents were confined to their homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under army curfew orders aimed at curbing protests during the general strike, reports and Israel Radio said.

The 6,000 Palestinian residents

of the Al Amari refugee camp in the West Bank were under curfew for the 10th straight day. Curfews were reported on eight Gaza Strip refugee camps, parts of Gaza City, and the West Bank towns of Tulkarem and Qalqilya.

The army said one house was demolished Sunday night in the Gaza Strip village of Beit Hanoun. It said the house belonged to Yazid Wahi, who was arrested in Gaza and accused of leading an outlawed popular committee and of taking part in a firebomb attack on Israeli troops.

In Ramallah, a leaflet signed by the underground leadership of the revolt ordered people not to observe a strike called Tuesday by the fundamentalist Muslim group.

Pictures of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat were plastered to

walls in Ramallah, and slogans complained of U.S. Secretary George Shultz's refusal to grant Arafat a visa to address the U.N. General Assembly.

"Shultz, you will never frighten us," said one slogan.

"American is the enemy of all the world," said another.

In Nablus, tyres were set ablaze and dozens of Palestinian flags were flying in the city's old market area.

Two teenagers and a 20-year-old man suffered bullet wounds in a clash with soldiers in the market, officials at Al Itihad hospital in Nablus said. One of the victims was a 17-year-old shot in the stomach, they said.

Stores were closed and public transportation came to a standstill in response to the call to honour the more than 5,000 Palestinians jailed in the uprising.

Reform drive progresses in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — A congress of Algeria's ruling party has approved at committee level political reforms which will allow independent candidates to challenge the party in elections, the head of the party's secretariat said Monday.

Abdel Hamid Mehri, President Chadli Benjedid's deputy in the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), told a news conference the party would also go back to its origins as a broad front grouping different currents of opinion.

The two changes are the main features of the political reform package which Benjedid sought to push through the FLN congress, called after violent protests against government austerity shook the country in October.

Benjedid, opening the congress Sunday, also hinted that Algerians could be asked to vote on whether to end the FLN's one-

party rule. The FLN has been in power since independence in 1962.

Mehri ruled out introduction of a multi-party system for now, though he said this might come about in a few years.

"We want first to give the idea of returning to the broad front every chance of success... a multi-party system would have to be approved by popular referendum," he said.

The congress was working on other details of the reforms, such as separating the party from the state, which would require a constitutional amendment, he said.

Political analysts said Benjedid's success in persuading the party to renounce some of its old privileges improved his chances of winning nomination as sole candidate in state presidential elections next February.

At previous congresses, which

take place every five years, the FLN secretary-general, a position now held by Benjedid, was automatically the presidential candidate. But Mehri said this might not be the case in future.

He said the party was looking at a proposal to create the new post of party chairman but did not indicate whether the president of the country would hold this job, as in many other one-party states.

The head of the secretariat spoke of approval of the political reforms as though this was a foregone conclusion, apparently to try to end speculation that party hardliners at the congress would slow the pace of change.

At preparatory meetings in the provinces, some militants refused even to look at the reforms on the procedural grounds that they received the documents too late.

Arafat will address session, General Assembly chief vows

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, who has been denied a visa to address the U.N. General Assembly in New York, still will speak to the world body, its president, Dante Caputo, said Monday.

As soon as we receive a special request from the Arab group we shall proceed in the best possible manner to ensure that Chairman Arafat is able to address the General Assembly," Caputo, the foreign minister of Argentina, said in a statement.

He said the United States was under an obligation to give the PLO leader an entry visa under the agreement that established U.N. headquarters in New York.

Caputo issued his statement through his spokesman Juan Brandi as Arab delegates gathered to consider what steps to take following Saturday's announcement by United States Secretary of State George Shultz that Arafat was being barred.

They were expected to seek a General Assembly resolution to transfer impending debates on the Palestine and Middle East questions to Geneva to permit Arafat's participation.

The United States would not oppose shifting the General Assembly debate on Palestine to another country, the State Department said Monday.

"While we do not support" moving the debate out of New York "we do not oppose" the action, State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters.

"It is unnecessary," Redman said of the calls for moving the debate out of New York's U.N. headquarters.

"We do not oppose General Assembly consideration of the Palestinian question," Redman said. "There are PLO spokesmen able to state their position in New York. We have no objection to that."

"Moving the meeting to Geneva, therefore, is unnecessary," he said.

A number of Arab foreign ministers have already cancelled plans to come to New York for the Palestine

and Middle East debates, which, for the present, remain on the December schedule.

In the likely event of a decision to move the General Assembly to Geneva for the discussion of these agenda items, some time in January might be more practical for it than the month of December, officials said.

Arafat told reporters in Baghdad that the United States had chosen to ignore a groundswell of international support for the newly proclaimed Palestinian state.

He called the U.S. rejection of his visa application "a sheer violation of international law" and "a grave violation of the 1947 headquarters treaty with the U.N."

"Why are they afraid that I speak to world public opinion and explain the new Palestinian decisions?" Arafat said.

Palestinian officials have said that 67 states have voiced support for the independent Palestinian state declared Nov. 15 in Algiers by the 450-member Palestinian National

Council (PNC).

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union and much of Western Europe joined a chorus of protest from the Arab World Monday at Washington's decision to bar Arafat from the United Nations debate.

The Soviet Union and numerous other countries said the decision violated the 1947 pact setting up U.N. headquarters in New York — a point also made by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states asked the U.S. to revise the decision "which does not harmonise with its (U.S.) principles of peace, justice and harmony in the world," a Saudi official said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency.

Syria also criticised the U.S. for showing favouritism towards Israel by denying the visa, saying "we all know... the Americans laud the strong and despise the weak."

China's Foreign Ministry called the U.S. decision a violation of the U.N. headquarters agreement.

Abu Mazen lauds Jordan's role in support of Palestinian cause

KUWAIT (Petra) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) highly values the role Jordan has undertaken in support of the Palestinian cause, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) was quoted as saying Monday.

In remarks carried by Kuwait's Al Watan daily, Abbas, who attended talks in Amman between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Sunday, said Jordan's efforts had brought about positive results towards launching joint Arab action on the Palestinian question.

Abbas said Sunday's Amman talks dealt with Jordanian-Palestinian relations but did not touch upon confederation between Jordan and the newly-proclaimed Palestinian state.

The King and Arafat reviewed means to bolster PLO moves, particularly in light of the American refusal to grant a visa to Arafat to address the United Nations, he said.

His Majesty and the PLO chairman also discussed means to pave the way for an ordinary Arab summit to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to discuss the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes, Abbas told Al Watan.

Iraqi president visits Cairo, reviews Mideast with Mubarak

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein of Iraq visited Egypt Monday and held surprise talks with President Hosni Mubarak on backing the Palestinian cause and other Middle East issues.

Top aides flanked the two leaders, who last met in Baghdad last month with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, for the unscheduled meeting in the presidential palace.

Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, led Hussein's official team while Mubarak was supported by Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala and Prime Minister Atef Sedki.

Foreign ministers Tariq Aziz of Iraq and Esmat Abdul Meguid of Egypt were also in the delegations, along with ministers responsible for foreign affairs, religious matters and information.

Hussein told reporters at Cairo

international airport that the main purpose of his visit was "to develop and deepen the brotherly relations" between Egypt and Iraq.

Hussein said he and Mubarak would discuss "all matters of common concern to the two countries and the Arab World in political, economic and other fields," with top priority going to the Palestinian problem.

"This is only natural," he said, in light of recent decisions by the Palestine National Council (PNC) that included proclamation of an independent Palestinian state and implicit recognition of Israel.

"We should support these decisions with everything in our power... in order to help the struggling Palestinian people regain their land and establish an independent state," he said.

Following the talks, Mubarak urged President Reagan Monday to lift a U.S. ban on Arafat and

allow him to address the United Nations in New York.

He said he would give Washington a chance to think again before throwing his weight behind Arab moves to shift a special U.N. General Assembly session on Palestine from New York to Geneva or another city outside the United States.

"Most Arabs are thinking of this," Mubarak told reporters. "But I'm waiting for the United States to reconsider because they have so many friends in the area and they should reconsider this question..."

He said he had sent a message asking Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz to reconsider their refusal to grant a visa to Arafat so that he could attend the General Assembly debate.

"I hope they will respond in a positive way, this would help peace," Mubarak said.

Iraqi president unveils sweeping political reforms

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has announced that his Baath Party which has ruled virtually unchallenged for more than 20 years is to allow the formation of new political parties.

The announcement was made on Baghdad Television late Sunday as part of a package of wide-sweeping moves in the wake of the Aug. 20 Gulf war ceasefire. The key points of Hussein's speech were:

— Allowing the formation of new political parties;

— Pardons for anyone convicted or wanted for political offences;

— A pledge not to interfere in the internal affairs of other Arab countries.

"What is expected from Iraq in the post-war era is not to stay in a shell," the president said on television while receiving a group of Arab lawyers.

"New parties will be formed in addition to the existing ones to play their role in the society," Hussein said.

The Baath Party dominates a Progressive National and Patriotic Front which includes two other minor pro-government Kurdish parties, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party.

Hussein said the Baath Party adopted the idea of a multi-party system without reservations.

He said the changes were planned two years before the August ceasefire with Iran.

"We have prepared the stage on the level of allowing new parties to take part (in the country's affairs) and allowing the formation of additional parties which means a multiple party system."

He said he did not announce this political decision earlier because he was afraid Iraq would be seen as merely following what he

described as the wave of multiple party systems in other parts of the world — an apparent reference to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" reforms.

The president went on to announce an amnesty for all political offences, affecting prisoners inside Iraq and exiles who have fled the country.

"I announce before you that any person who was convicted or wanted for political reasons will be pardoned... it is a general amnesty for those who are inside or outside Iraq except for the spies or those who worked as spies for Iran or for the Iranian army."

"Those who are in jail will be freed and those who are outside the country will be pardoned," the president said.

Hussein said Iraq would not interfere in the internal affairs of Arab countries.

"What is expected from Iraq... is to interact with the Arab issues in a way that the Arabs feel that we do not intend to interfere in their affairs," he said.

Abu Sharif: Quest for peace is no gimmick

BAHRAIN (AP) — A senior advisor to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has said in an article that Palestinian acceptance of Israel was not "a public relations gimmick" or an attempt to throw "dust in the world's eyes."

In a 3,000-word article titled "A Message from the PLO Gives Peace a Visa," Bassam Abu Sharif rebutted arguments raised against the Palestine National Council's (PNC) implicit recognition of Israel and decision to restrict armed attacks to Israel and Israeli-occupied territories.

The article was made available to the AP in advance of its publication Monday in a London daily newsletter, Mideast Mirror.

Its title refers to the U.S. rejection of Arafat's application for a visa in order to address the United Nations General Assembly in New York Dec. 1 on the Palestinian issue.

The PNC's Nov. 15 declaration of an independent Palestinian state and endorsement of U.N. resolutions were "an honest expression of the Palestinian majority's belief that the State of Palestine can coexist alongside the State of Israel," the article said.

The independence declaration and accompanying political programme implicitly recognise Israel by accepting all U.N. resolutions, including one that calls for all states in the region to live in peace.

"The peace offer... comes from a people determined to regain its rights and who have now decided to believe the Israelis, Americans, Soviets, Europeans and others who have been assuring them that those rights can be regained by peaceful means," the article said.

But Abu Sharif expressed disappointment at U.S. and Israeli reaction to the PNC decision.

"The response of Israel and the U.S. administration so far suggest that it was a bad gamble and a naive hope... suggest that people in charge in Tel Aviv and Washington want to provoke the PLO into dropping all peace options."

Abu Sharif also recalled that a position paper he authored five months ago, acknowledging Israel's right to exist, had become a Palestinian platform. The paper attracted widespread international attention.

He also voiced hopes that a new U.S. administration would adopt a more conciliatory position towards the PLO.

"...Since neither I nor the majority of my colleagues are anxious to trade the peace pipe in just yet, I still cling to one shred of hope: that Mr. (George) Shultz and the Reagan administration is speaking for itself and not for the American people or for Mr. (James) Baker and the Bush

administration," he wrote. "My hope now is that Washington 1989 will differ from Washington 1988 and give peace a visa," he added. "If I am once more risking a charge of gullibility, that is a small price to pay compared with the disaster I fear will strike us, the Israelis, the Mideast, and everyone with interests in that region when hope runs out."

Referring to opinion that the PLO has not truly renounced "terrorism," Abu Sharif quoted from both the Algiers independence declaration and an accompanying political declaration, saying that "terrorism" was "renounced twice."

Replying to criticism of the council for not explicitly recognising Israel, he replied: "The question is legitimate, and the answer is that neither I nor the PNC — nor for that matter, the United States — recognise Israel as it stands today, in control of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and the

Gaza Strip and determined, according to the repeated pledges of Yitzhak Shamir, his Likud bloc and their various allies, to hold on to them."

Abu Sharif also responded to claims that the endorsement of Resolutions 242 and 338 conflicts with the founding charter of the PLO, which Israel believes calls for its "destruction."

"The charter — which incidentally does not call for the destruction of Israel... but envisions a democratic state in which both claimants to historical Palestine can live in peace and equality — has been superseded by the decisions of the PNC, the author of the charter."

"The charter was a rejection of the U.N. partition resolutions of 1947. The PNC has now withdrawn that rejection and by so doing annulled the sections of the charter that have caused so much consternation in Israel, the U.S. and elsewhere."

Iraq protests PoW swap halt

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday it was complaining to the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) about Iran's decision to halt the swap of sick or wounded prisoners of war (PoWs).

"We are sending memoranda to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the ICRC to complain for the vicious Iranian step to halt the exchange of the sick or wounded prisoners of war," Iraq's Foreign Ministry Legal Department chief Akram Al Witri told Reuters.

He said the Iranian decision was unilateral.

Iraq was supposed to release 1,158 Iraqis and Iraq 411 Ira-

nians, but Baghdad reduced the number it was freeing after Tehran cut by more than half the size of the batches of PoWs it was setting free.

(In Tehran, the Iranian news agency IRNA said no more Iraqis would be repatriated until Iranian PoWs who were not returned home in the initial stages of the exchange were released.)

On Sunday only 19 out of 41 Iraqis scheduled for repatriation were allowed to board a plane for Tehran after it arrived in Baghdad with 52 Iraqis instead of the expected 115.

The cut in numbers was the third in three exchanges since last Thursday.

IRNA quoted the head of

Iran's PoW Committee as saying the continuation of the exchange would depend on the release of 67 sick or wounded Iraqis.

Witri said the original ICRC-sponsored accord with Iran was for the release of 411 sick or wounded Iranian PoWs in exchange for 1,158 Iraqis within 10 days starting from last Thursday — an average of 41 Iraqis and 115 Iraqis daily.

"They (the Iraqis) began with 51 to 52 daily, claiming the others were either cured, released or sought asylum... we demanded the ICRC to supply us with legal documents proving the claims but the ICRC failed, forcing us to reduce the (number of) Iraqis released to 18 or 19 instead of 41," he said.



Syrian soldiers were deployed in west Beirut in May this year to restore calm after three weeks of bloody fighting between the Amal militia and the

pro-Iranian Hizbollah. Now the hostilities have surfaced anew. (Sygma photo).

Syrian troops launch major crackdown on Beirut guns

BEIRUT (R) — The Syrian army launched a major drive Monday to end five days of fighting in west Beirut, raiding houses, seizing weapons and arresting 300 feuding militiamen.

About 600 soldiers, armed with rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machineguns, took part in the search for fighters of the Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

A Syrian officer told Reuters

his troops arrested about 300 gunmen and confiscated arms in raids on houses and hideouts in the areas of Musaitbeh, Al Nweiri, Hay Al Lija, Bourj Abu Haidar and Khadk Al Ghanik.

Scores of soldiers took up combat positions on street corners as others searched buildings. Truckloads of soldiers stood by.

The Syrian military command renewed orders to its men to shoot gunmen on sight following

the collapse of six truces since fighting between the rival militias erupted Thursday.

"If you see anyone holding a gun, spray him immediately kill him on spot. We're not playing around here," said an officer as he ordered his unit to search a seven-story building in Bourj Abu Haidar.

The crackdown followed a clash between Hizbollah and Amal in the Houd Al Wilaya area.

Genscher begins Tehran talks

NICOSIA (AP) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher met Monday with his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, and said he seeks to improve relations with Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency said the two officials discussed "mutual political, economic and cultural ties as well as international cooperation and regional issues."

Genscher arrived in Tehran Sunday for a three-day visit amid speculation that he sought to mediate the release of Western hostages, including Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, held by pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon.

Genscher's quiet diplomacy, and his good contacts with Tehran throughout the eight-year-old Gulf war with Iraq, was seen as a key factor in the release of

three West Germans who had been held in Lebanon.

IRNA last week quoted the English language Tehran Times daily as saying that "everything points to" an effort by Genscher to secure the release of some of the captives.

Waite is one of 14 Westerners held hostage in Lebanon. He disappeared Jan. 20 last year in Beirut while seeking to free two Americans held by the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad.

Uday Hussein on bail; case goes to tribunal

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son, Uday, accused of killing a presidential bodyguard last October, has been released from jail.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said that a three-man judicial committee investigating Uday, 25, Sunday ordered that he be released on "personal commitment" to appear for questioning whenever summoned.

The committee referred the case to a criminal tribunal, it said. The president made the announcement that Uday had been granted bail and had been released from prison on Baghdad Television Sunday.

The announcement came after Hussein met relatives of the dead man who asked him to drop charges against Uday saying the affair was "fate decided by God."

Uday was jailed Oct. 21, two days after hitting his father's servant Kamel Hanna Jejo on the head with a stick.

Hussein said Jejo was drunk

and fired repeatedly in the air during a celebration on a tourist island in the Tigris River. He said his son hit Jejo when the servant ignored an order to stop shooting.

He said witnesses told him his son aimed a blow at the servant's shoulders but Jejo moved and was hit on the head.

Iraqi Justice Minister Akram Abdul Qader Ali in a letter to Hussein said there was no legal basis for keeping Uday in prison until the trial.

Ali, in Sunday's message reported by Baghdad Radio, said three special investigators had concluded that no legal basis existed for Uday to remain in jail.

"Keeping him in detention has become a legal violation... and so (has) stripping him from his posts before the issuance of a court decision," Ali said.

Uday resigned on what he described as personal grounds as Iraqi Olympic Committee and football association president af-



Uday Hussein

ter his arrest.

The bodyguard died at hospital of his injury several hours later.

Hussein said Uday tried to commit suicide after he learned of Jejo's death. He attempted suicide twice more while in prison, but his life was again saved by doctors, according to his father.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
16:00 Children's programmes
17:10 Agricultural programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Programme on world news
18:20 Religious programme
18:50 Programme on Environment
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Local series
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 A French film
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Who's the Boss
21:10 Breaking up
22:00 News in English
22:30 Specials

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.9 KHz. SW
Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
11:00 Comedy
11:30 Book Club
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Old Favourites
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Contd.

PRAYER TIMES

14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Instrumentals
14:30 Jordan in History
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Top Twenty
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 News Talk
18:30 Book Club
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Continued
23:00 Close Down

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Palace Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Ouf'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. in 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwibdeh, Tel. 627440.
De la Salette Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757, Sunday English mass (summer time 6 p.m. - winter time 5 p.m.).
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.
Basilian Congregation, (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 333000, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:55 Baghdad (RJ)
06:10 Amman (RJ)
06:15 Jeddah (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:55 Dubai (RJ)
07:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:10 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
07:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
07:40 Istanbul (RJ)
07:50 Athens (RJ)
07:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)
11:25 Kuwait (KU)
13:20 Larnaca (SU)
15:45 Tripoli (LN)
15:55 Larnaca (KU)
16:00 Baghdad (IA)
17:00 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
17:45 Rome (AZ)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
06:05 Amman (RJ)
06:10 Vienna, New York (RJ)
06:15 Athens (RJ)
06:30 Istanbul (RJ)
06:45 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
06:55 Geneva, London (RJ)
07:15 Paris (RJ)
07:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
07:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
07:50 Larnaca (RJ)
08:30 Cairo (RJ)
08:50 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

08:20 Cairo (MS)
08:25 Larnaca (SU)
08:30 Larnaca, Moscow (SU)
08:45 Kuwait (LN)
08:55 Kuwait (KU)
09:00 Baghdad (IA)
09:10 Dubai (EK)
09:35 Damascus (AZ)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A slight rise on temperature will occur and scattered clouds will appear. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.
Min./max. temp. Amman 71/19

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Yusef Bineirani 821311
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 633272
Dr. Yusuf Sammour 633554
Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz 793344
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairouth pharmacy 626672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637600

TAXIS

Karnak taxi 668761
Grand Palace taxi 667079
Furai taxi 665186
Rashid taxi 622023
Commodore taxi 668186
Tayche taxi 663032

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111

CIVIL DEFENCE

Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891228
Blood Bank 843402
Highway Police 634442
Traffic Police 639141
Public Security Directorate 656000/651111
House Complaints 645800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 631001
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 773111
Jordan Television 773111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 648411, 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn. 6422816
Al-Khadija Maternity, J. Amn. 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mathar, J. Amman 6641715
Palestine, Shmeisani 635140
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672277
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Abd, Abdali 6641646

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apple (double red) 600 / 500
Apple (golden) 400 / 300
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Beans 480 / 380
Cabbage 120 / 100
Carrots 200 / 160
Cauliflower 220 / 180
Cucumbers 220 / 180
Eggplants (large) 110 / 70
Eggplants (small) 150 / 120
Garlic 350 / 300
Grapes 160 / 120
Lemon 200 / 160
Marrow (large) 150 / 120
Marrow (small) 200 / 180
Orange (Shamouti) 270 / 200
Orange (local) 180 / 140
Olive (green) 350 / 300
Olive (black) 300 / 450
Onion (dry) 210 / 160
Pepper (hot) 260 / 160
Pepper (sweet) 280 / 220
Potato 220 / 180
Radish 160 / 120
Spinach 160 / 120
Tomatoes 400 / 300

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES YUGOSLAVIA: His Majesty King Hussein Monday cabled congratulations to the Yugoslav President on the anniversary of Yugoslavia's National Day. The King wished the Yugoslav President good health and the people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

ART EXHIBITION AT YARMOUK: Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali Monday opened an exhibition of plastic art at Yarmouk University. The exhibition includes paintings on education and nature. It also includes ceramics and sculpture. Princess Wijdan Ali also opened the graphic arts exhibition which includes fashions designed by the university students. (Petra)

CEMENT TO EGYPT: Within the framework of a new Egyptian and Jordanian agreement, 22,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement were Sunday shipped to Egypt via Aqaba. According to the agreement 750,000 tonnes will be exported to Egypt with an average of 62,000 tonnes a month. With this shipment, 44,000 tonnes have already been shipped to Egypt. (Petra)

COOPERATION WITH TURKEY: The Council of Ministers has endorsed a memorandum of understanding signed by Jordan and Turkey to pave the way for cooperation in industry and technical services. The memorandum, which was signed in Turkey last June, aims to increase the volume of cooperation in industrial production.

TRAFFIC AWARENESS: The police directorate in Tafila Governorate Monday began a campaign to impose students' traffic awareness and prevent incidents. The campaign includes holding seminars and distributing leaflets on means to avoid road accidents. (Petra)

BAD FOOD DESTROYED: The public safety sub-committee Monday destroyed a quantity of food, in several areas in Salt, because it was not fit for human consumption. (Petra)

HEALTH PROGRAMME: A seven-day educational programme for secondary school students in Al Koura district began Monday. The programme includes delivering lectures on health, screening television films, and distributing leaflets on various health topics. Specialists and midwives are also participating in this programme. (Petra)

AMBULANCE FOR AL KOURA: The Health Ministry provided the Al Koura Health Directorate with an ambulance to promote services to citizens. (Petra)

ANJARA CULTURAL FESTIVAL: As part of the celebrations marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, a cultural festival opened Monday in Anjara. The five-day exhibition includes a reading section, a national book exhibition, an exhibition of historical documents, children drawings, and a film-show section. (Petra)

EMBEZZLER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Sultan Ibrahim Mohammad Sulaiman to one year imprisonment and the payment of JD 350 fine for embezzling public funds. The military governor Monday endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

French week opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — The French week was launched at the Marriott Hotel in Amman Sunday by Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbara in the presence of invited audience of businessmen from Jordan and France, representatives of various organisations and the press.

The event, organised by the French embassy in Amman in cooperation with Air France, is bound to offer Jordanians a chance to sample food and wine from France and acquaint themselves with the latest techniques used in the field of civil aviation.

The five-day event displays a variety of French products such as clothes, perfumes, glass, porcelains, foods and home appliances. A children's fashion show will be put up and a special dinner honouring the famous soccer player Michel Platini will be held, with the proceeds benefit-

ing charity in Jordan.

Air France will present a multi-division projection show focusing on the most significant functions of the airline, shown on a giant screen and open to the public throughout the day.

Speakers at the opening ceremony praised the strong trade and cultural ties between France and Jordan.

According to French sources, 25 French firms, specialising in medicine, telecommunications, tyres, food, cosmetics, and perfumes, are involved in the event.

Among those present at the opening ceremony and the reception that followed were Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni, Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasbi, representatives of trade unions and the Amman Chambers of Industry and a large audience of invited guests.

Islamic Water Network chief returns from Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — The chief executive officer of the Islamic Water Network (IWN) Mr. Ahmad Kilani has returned to Amman after a Gulf tour where he discussed pan-Arab cooperation in water-related affairs.

Kilani said that he went to Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar where he held meetings with government officials and experts in water resources.

In the UAE, Kilani met with its university president to discuss cooperation with IWN and reached agreement on organising

a general meeting in February 1989 at the Amman based IWN to project an executive plan to implement a water network project for the Gulf region.

The plan deals with conducting research projects on the development of underground resources in the desert and semi-desert regions, desalination schemes to provide water for irrigation, the employment of modern technology in the treatment of wastewater and the utilisation of solar energy to make available additional water quantities for various purposes.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of iconographies, signs and public places by the German artist Otto Herbert Hajek at the Department of Architecture at the University of Jordan.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by 55 artists from Irbid Governorate at Irbid Youth Centre.
- ★ An exhibition covering T.S. Eliot's life and literary works at the British Council.
- ★ A book exhibition at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- ★ The French week to exhibit the latest techniques used in the field of civil aviation at the Marriott Hotel.
- ★ A cultural festival which includes a national book exhibition, an art exhibition, historical photos and documents exhibition, children's paintings and other activities at Anjara Public Library building Ajloun.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Fine Arts Department students at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of graphic art works which show costumes that represent Jordanian national heritage at the Yarmouk University.

FORUM

- ★ Arabic-German literature forum in which Arabic and German authors and poets introduce their literary works at the Goethe Institute — 7:30 p.m.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday attends celebrations marking the graduation of a new batch of trainees from the women's training academy in Zarqa at the King Abdullah Ibn Hussein Complex and Public Parks in Amman.

Queen Noor attends graduation of women's academy trainees

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, Monday attended the celebration for the graduation of a batch of trainees at the Women's Training Academy in Zarqa. The celebration was held at the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Complex and Public Parks.

General Federation of Jordanian Women President Haifa Al Bashir delivered a speech at the ceremony in which she welcomed and thanked Queen Noor for her patronage of this ceremony, which is held as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. She said the main training cen-

tre belonging to the federation has been able to develop its production this year and increase the productivity of Jordanian women to contribute to securing their family needs and to raise the income of the Jordanian family in general.

At the end of the ceremony, Queen Noor distributed certificates on 150 graduates in the fields of languages, sewing and embroidery.

Later on, Queen Noor opened a bazaar for traditional handicrafts organised by the federation's branches in Zarqa and Amman and a number of charitable societies in the Kingdom.

The exhibition includes embroideries, rugs, wooden

works, artificial flowers, children's toys and foods.

The celebration was attended by members of the women's federation and a number of officials and diplomats in Amman.

The Women's Training Academy in Zarqa is one of many centres which are managed by the federation with the aim of helping women to contribute effectively in living of their families, the society and to open channels of communication and exchange of expertise between the woman in the countryside and the women in the city. It also aims to present practical training and rehabilitation services and helps to carry out researches and studies on women's issues.

Mahafzah stresses importance of spreading technology in rural areas

AMMAN (Petra) — The simplification of science and technology, and spreading it among the rural population is a vital necessity of great importance to Arab society, which is currently witnessing radical changes in its economic and social structure, according to Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafzah.

Speaking on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, at a regional conference on the role of universities and educational institutions in simplifying and spreading technology and science among the rural populations of the Arab World, Mahafzah said the process of simplification is a first step in the institutionalisation of technology in Jordan.

Mahafzah stressed the importance of the role of universities, educational institutions and schools in that process which is aimed at modernising the means of production in order to raise the

skills of workers in that field and in turn, increase the ability to produce.

"The conference comes at a time when Jordan is witnessing a movement towards development in education, in order to satisfy the country's economic and social needs, institutionalise technology and raise the level of scientific research and application," Mahafzah said.

He stressed that the holding of such a conference "constitutes an embodiment of the role of the university as well as its efforts to serve the Jordanian society and the local inhabitants in particular."

UNESCO Deputy Director Othman Bayazit also delivered a speech in which he explained UNESCO's interest in spreading human concepts and in the spreading and simplification of science and technology, so that it may be understood and accepted by citizens who are not special-

ised in that field.

Bayazit said UNESCO has dedicated a project to study the special relationships between scientific and technological advancement and its effect on all aspects of society, in order to promote and encourage the application of science and technology in developing countries.

He said the spreading of science and technology, which needs substantial development before an end result is reached, should be supported by various local and international organisations.

The conference, which is held in cooperation between the universities and UNESCO, is aimed at giving members of educational institutions a chance to discuss and exchange views and experiences related to the simplification and spreading of science and technology in rural areas of the Arab World, as well as improving their level of development.

First batch of tourist police graduates

New force expected to help improve services for tourists, Ajlouni says

AMMAN (Petra) — The first batch of tourist police graduated Monday and gathered at a meeting with Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni and other officials and Public Security Department (PSD) officers to discuss their future mission in Jordan's tourist areas and archaeological sites.

The group of 32 male and female police officers will be charged with duties to help facilitate the visit and stay of tourists to Jordan and will be stationed at Petra, Jerash, Madaba, Aqaba and ports of entry into Jordanian territory, according to Ajlouni.

The minister emphasised the importance of the role of the Tourist Police Force in conveying a bright image about their country to the visitors of Jordan and its places of interest.

"Jordan is entering a new phase in which it is expected to

develop its tourist potentials and improve its facilities for tourists at the regional and international levels, and the new force is deemed necessary, to help carry out this mission," the minister said at the meeting which was attended by the ministry's Secretary General Nasri Atallah.

"Tourist police will be expected to orient the visitors on the country's importance as a major tourist centre in the region and help give accurate information and historical background about the Kingdom, its past cul-

ture and history, and help project its people's hospitable character," the minister noted.

The Ministry of Tourism will take essential measures, in cooperation with the PSD and other concerned departments, to qualify more groups for this mission and will hold training courses for the tourist police members, to improve their knowledge in history and foreign languages, the minister added.

Ajlouni expressed confidence that the Tourist Police Force will be of help to the visitors of all countries and serve as a model for other police forces in the Arab World.

The graduates have had a training course in tourist guidance services and Jordan's history after graduating from Yarmouk University in history, geography and English language.



Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni and Public Security Department officials Monday meet the first batch of tourist police graduates (Petra photo)

Haj Hassan returns from Tunis talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan returned to Amman Monday after taking part in the Arab ministers of transport executive council meetings in Tunis.

"The meetings resulted in very important resolutions that are expected to contribute most positively to the development of pan-Arab cooperation in maritime, land and air transport," the minister said upon his return here.

The discussions covered a number of subjects of concern to transport within the Arab World, focusing mainly on measures to unify and integrate transport sys-

tems and means that can promote economic development, the minister added.

The council endorsed a pan-Arab transport strategy which aims to deal with weaknesses in Arab transport systems and facilitate the flow of goods and travellers among the various Arab states.

"The strategy paves the way for a common infrastructure in maritime, land and air transport and opens the door for Arab commercial fleets to prosper and flourish, and end the Arab World's dependence on foreign fleets," Haj Hassan said.

According to the minister the council has approved measures to

combat maritime fraud. It has examined pan-Arab federations and organisations working in the field of transport and proper measures to enhance inter-Arab cooperation.

"Also discussed was the subject of classifying Arab-owned vessels and a system allowing tax exemption for Arab equipments used in transport," Haj Hassan said.

The Tunis meeting elected a new executive council that groups Jordan and four other countries, the minister added.

During his stay in Tunis Haj Hassan held a series of meetings with Arab ministers of transport to discuss Jordan's cooperation with their countries in transport.

King opens comprehensive development conference

(Continued from page 1)

has become a rare example in this troubled world and a great advantage that we have to safeguard and maintain despite conspiracies and unfavourable conditions.

"As far as our regional environment is concerned, we enjoy strong and close relations with our Arab brethren. We have always viewed ourselves as an integral part of the greater Arab World, and we have dealt with it in the spirit of the Great Arab Revolt, maintaining this stand in all our agreements and commitments. We have never let down our Arab brothers nor have we abrogated any pacts with them. We have reciprocated good will and upheld our position in the core of the Arab Order in code and conduct. This stand does not stem from any selfish or material interests but rather from the belief that Arab complementarity and solidarity enhance their status in the world and paves the way for the achievement of their objectives. I have called for reviving Arab economic integration, especially in these circumstances in which various world regions have found acceptable formulae for cooperation and useful integration.

"Experience has taught us that the process of construction will invariably suffer from momentary set-backs which spill over to us from abroad by virtue of our close connections with the outside world. We must build our innate administrative ability to face and contain new developments in order to maintain constant progress; thus, our institutions must keep their active role, to safeguard our accomplishments and defend them in the face of destabilising shocks. Desirable change depends on rational behaviour and reasonable conduct. Moderate consumption that preserves economic momentum, and supports savings is the one compatible with our morals, traditions and system of values as stated in the Holy Koran: "Make not thy hand tied to thy neck; nor stretch it forth to its utmost reach and thus become blameworthy and destitute" (Al Isra' Surah, Verse 29).

"We can curtail our expenditure as we realise that extravagance is not a personal issue but rather a social incur-

red by society at large. We have to innovate means of reinforcing savings and investment inclinations in order to be able to guarantee a promising future. We want investment to be open to all honest citizens, (residing inside or outside Jordan) on an equal footing. Regardless of our positions and locations, we are all equal in access to productive work and in reaping its benefits. Waste is not confined to consumption habits, for investment expenditure can also be squandered. We always have to bear in mind that a feasible investment project is one that becomes operational at the lowest possible cost. There is no need for spending on unproductive components or for expanding the volume of a project to levels whereby it loses its competitiveness. Instead of purchasing new equipment we have to learn to utilise available machinery to the utmost and optimal levels of performance.

"Within this framework, we have to innovate methods of exploiting our natural resources and our scientific and research potential. We must master the capability of providing distinctive and high quality products that gives the buyer, at home and abroad, a fair return for his money. Control over spending at the individual and family levels and in factories and institutions, is what will lessen our dependence on importation and enhance our ability to export and consequently secure the needed financing for new projects. The nations that boast of excessive and uncontrolled expenditures deprive themselves of the possibility for continuous growth and place themselves hostage to the whims of others. We realise that the opportunities for low-cost financing have diminished and that we cannot from now on, undertake any unproductive or unsteady expenditure.

"Regional developmental efforts should be coupled with a clear perception of administrative and financial requirements in order for the effort to be relevant to the environment in which development projects are established. In all cases, clarity and good preparation are prerequisites for desirable developmental ends. In speaking of a regional development the media/desert areas emerge as a special case worthy of attention and care. This promising

and vast section of our country, must be a corner-stone of our new approach.

"This area, large though it is, needs added developmental input to enable it to catch up with the rest of the country. The media and its people have always been the source of our pride and confidence, and we have no doubt that after the accomplishment of infrastructural projects, it will become a bastion for prime production and a source of good and respectable living for many of our citizens, particularly members of the Armed Forces. We succeed in transforming the media into a focal region that attracts population then we can be confident that our expenditure in it will yield fruitful results. I look forward to seeing concrete administrative arrangements and tools that would guarantee the achievement of this objective.

"Development in Jordan is basically dependent upon the human element, therefore it is imperative that we place a lot of emphasis on the human being and on equipping him with training and useful scientific tools. In this sense we were gratified with the results of the educational reform conference which called for the educational sector.

"The preparation and qualification of teachers, the stress on laboratories and suitable buildings, and the development of modern curricula, constitute the prerequisites for success in vitalising this important sector. We must teach our children and youth creative thinking and instill in them proper ethical values.

"Agriculture has always been a basic source of production and job opportunities, and therefore has to continue receiving our attention as the pivot of economic activity in the countryside. However, we have to utilise what experience we have gained to enhance productivity and diversify output as well as increase our self-reliance in food production. We must keep in mind the need to gradually attain self-sufficiency and even think in terms of exporting surplus production in the future.

"Our recent experience in the last few weeks has demonstrated to us the importance of self-reliance as well as the importance of the building-up of our national potential. But more importantly, it has made us realise that self-indulgence will reflect on us negatively. Efficient resource-management and allocation have to remain the primary concern in our economic policy. We have to realise fully that modern management is not merely general perceptions and broad ideas, it is also precise decisions that require good organisation and response, and prompt thinking and planning. This necessitates the availability of correct data and good processing of information, the latter making it readily accessible to the decision-maker. It is not possible for decision-makers to provide solutions in the absence of precise information and right scientific methodology. Thus, the gathering of data, its organisation and classification, remain a vital part of the process of good economic management.

"It is time for us to support and assist the government in fulfilling its role in terms of organisation and harmony amongst the various segments of society, as we move ahead towards progress and prosperity through creativity and production. The public sector cannot replace the private sector in the fields of industry, tourism, commerce, agriculture and transportation, among other fields. These activities and others pertain to the private sector.

"It is time for us to reshuffle responsibilities between the public and the private sectors in a way suitable to this phase of production and sufficiency. This requires promptness in decision-making and

decentralisation of authority, as well as the organisation of lines of communication amongst the various departments and institutions and between the regions and the centre.

"If we provide the country with the necessary production base, we will also be providing our Armed Forces with the opportunity to depend more on our national economy which will reduce the cost of defence procurement and replenishment.

"The phase ahead of us is one of comprehensive reform and adaptation and we are a country known for its ability to adapt. This, in fact, is a measure of our strength and success. It is certain that we have the necessary prerequisites to enable us to become a self-sufficient and productive society and, God willing, we will achieve our goals.

Following the King's speech, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delivered an address outlining the main task of the development councils and said that meetings would continue until the end of the first quarter of 1989 in order to finalise plans for the councils' future work.

Ministry of Planning's Secretary General Ziyad Fariz delivered an address in which he outlined the efforts to promote development in the Kingdom.

"Jordan is now at the threshold of a new phase requiring intensified efforts at all levels and by all citizens," Fariz said. "Jordan is witnessing pressure brought about as a result of the economic crises that are affecting the whole region which is plagued by disturbances in money markets, conflicts and other disturbances.

The Ministry of Planning, Fariz said, was involved in revising the 1986-1990 five-year plan following the elapse of two and a half years and also in the follow-up meetings that included the various sectoral committees.

Fariz summed up recommendations taken by the previous meetings by development councils in the north, south and central regions of Jordan. He said the recommendations show a wide diversion reflecting the different problems encountered by the different provinces but all of them concentrating on the development of natural and manpower resources.

These recommendations, Fariz said, focused on agriculture, industry, housing, social affairs and means of developing water resources and improving basic services.

Fariz said the government had been involved in all the ideas and proposals put forward by these councils and their recommendations are being taken into consideration in the government's policy-making process.

Several working papers are to be discussed by the two-day meeting which is attended also by representatives from trade unions. Later the meeting was resumed under the chairmanship of Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, who reviewed the world economic developments in the 1980s and their impact on the Arab states in general. The slowdown in the economy has adversely affected the employment of Jordanians abroad and subsequently reduced the expatriates transfers to Jordan, he said. "The situation brought about unemployment in Jordan, reduced demand for local products," the minister said.

Kanaan said Jordan's national income in 1980 amounted to JD 1,482 million rising to JD 1,895 million in 1987. In 1986 and 1987 the total investments in the Kingdom amounted to JD 847 million of which JD 281 million were spent on social and services sectors like health, education, higher education, information, culture, housing, tourism, municipal affairs and the rest benefited infrastructure projects.

The minister gave a breakdown of figures on total investments in various sectors and finally referred to the Jordanian work force which he said is now estimated at 890,000 of which employment is available for only 650,000.

The minister also referred to the investment incentives in agriculture, industry and outlined facilities now given to investors, like exemption of customs fees and exemption of income tax for five years. Kanaan also pointed out the government's recent measures which are designed to help the country to adapt to the new situation.

Jordan Times

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The biggest step — seeking self-reliance

THE KEYNOTE address by His Majesty King Hussein to the comprehensive development conference Monday not only underlined the national priorities for Jordan at this stage and the next, but also highlighted the responsibilities of the individual in bringing about economic corrective measures to fruition.

In more ways than one, the Jordanian society has always expected the executive authorities to make up for economic shortfalls. Little consideration is given to the burden that the extravagance of certain segments of the society adds to the problem. The situation in Jordan is not exactly unique when compared with many other Third World countries, but the Kingdom, which has always managed to overcome problems and registered ideal economic growth rates even during the height of global and regional depression, is seen as an example of how development is achieved despite adverse circumstances.

We have now reached a stage where it is time to wake up to our individual responsibilities and obligations to the country and contribute towards the national effort. Shirkling individual responsibility by blaming others for problems is only a useless exercise since it is our future, the future of the Jordanian society, that will be shaped as a result of our actions.

There are hundreds of ways each of us could do to fulfill his or her share of the national economic endeavours. For starters, let's accept that many of us have indeed been accustomed to living beyond our means and that it is time to have a fresh look at the concept that every filth saved is a filth earned for the individual as well as the national treasury.

Let us look inwards for a change and seek avenues for self-reliance in whatever little or big way we can. That in itself is the biggest step.



Zaki — Sawt Al Shaab

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i newspaper Monday discussed Washington's decision to refuse entry in the U.S. for PLO chief Yasser Arafat to address the U.N. General Assembly. The paper referred to King Hussein's endeavour to find a way to overcome this difficulty and to allow the Palestinian leader address the international community by proposing the convening of the meeting on Palestine in Geneva. Jordan in fact was and will continue to be the first Arab country to come to the support of the Palestinians and their legitimate and sole representative in all matters and at all levels, the paper noted. It said that Jordan is shouldering its national responsibility in confronting the American decision and in dealing with Washington's total biased attitude towards Israel and the Zionist lobby in Washington. The paper quoted Arafat as paying tribute to Jordan and King Hussein for the Kingdom's firm national stand in support of the Palestinians and their just cause.

Writing in Al Ra'i newspaper columnist Mahmoud Al Rimawi criticised the United States for refusing to issue an entry visa to Arafat. The American decision proves once again that the Reagan administration has learnt nothing and took no lessons from the past, the writer says. He notes that the decision is a clear disregard to the international community's views and principles and reflects that Washington is succumbing to terrorists in Tel Aviv. This is not the first time that Washington tried to show its hostility to the Arabs and to violate its own agreement with the United Nations, the writer continues. The Reagan administration's previous attempts to close down the PLO office in New York was another sign of U.S. succumbing to Israel and its agents and lobby in the America, the writer points out. This time the U.S. administration commits a grave blunder at a time when the PLO offers its hand for a genuine peace through the international organisation and proves that it is totally oriented to live in harmony and security in the Middle East provided that the Palestinian rights are safeguarded, Rimawi notes. He hopes that the U.N. secretariat will take proper steps to deal with the situation.

Al Dustour daily commented on the Jordanian-Palestinian talks and King Hussein's firm stand in backing the Palestinian people. The King's support is a manifestation of Jordan's national stand and his directives to the foreign minister to seek a U.N. meeting in Geneva stand out as a strong evidence of the Kingdom's determination to enable the PLO chief and the Palestinian people convey their message to the world and win the international community's support, said the paper. The American decision, as the King said, was an attempt to stifle the voice of peace and the moderate voice of the Palestinian leadership. It said that it was a disappointing and an unjustified decision coming in the wake of the PLO's proclamations in Algiers.

Sawt Al Shaab daily dwelt on the same topic and gave prominence to the King's talks with Arafat in which they reviewed various topics related to the Palestine question and the steps that should be taken on the international level. The King's talks with Arafat are bound to give further momentum to the current efforts to win the rights and the usurped lands of the Palestinian people, the paper said. The talks, it added, came at a time when the world community has become more convinced than ever before of the need to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Editor's Note: The Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) in Jerusalem has been publishing an "uprising update," which aims to clarify the existing human rights situation as it develops in the occupied territories, as the uprising entered its tenth month. The information bulletin is distributed in cooperation with the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights, whose international office is in Chicago. These updates are being published in the Jordan Times as they are received. Included in these information bulletins are lists of those killed during the uprising, as confirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross, lists of detainees, and updated human rights reports as they develop. While some sources and background material is publicly available, most of the information comes from first reports, fieldworker visits to hospitals, refugee camps, towns and villages, and from working relationships between the PHRIC and other institutions in the occupied territories. The material is collected and verified in Jerusalem and sent to Chicago, where the updates are produced and distributed internationally.

INJURIES: The estimate of 45,000 injuries requiring medical treatment is based on a variety of sources, including hospital, clinical and medical committee records; systematic field studies of villages and camps under prolonged siege; regular PHRIC field worker and assistant reports. While rates and types of injuries vary considerably over time and place, we estimate the following overall percentage of injury by type:

Shot (by live ammunition or penetrating bullet) 10 per cent
Shot (by rubber, aluminum bullets) 10 per cent
Beaten (by hands, clubs, rocks, firearms) 45 per cent
Teargas or teargas related 30 per cent
Other (burns, vehicular assault, torture, burial, etc.) 5 per cent

Official Israeli figures put the injury toll at 7,000. Official statements on any given day are always lower than the recorded number receiving treatment, and of course, exclude those not registered for medical treatment. Most beating and teargas-related injuries are also excluded from official figures. The always high percentage of injured who avoid treatment appears to have risen recently as a result of intensified army tactics against the injured. There was a pronounced drop in all injuries during June and July, followed by a sharp increase — especially of serious bullet injuries — in August and September.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTIONS: The extremely high number of detainees, coupled with the relative chaos in detention centre records, the continual relocating of large numbers of detainees, and frequent status changes (from regular arrest to administrative arrest) make it difficult to determine the exact number of administrative detainees. Of the estimated 4,000 administrative detention orders since the uprising, approximately 2,500 persons are still in detention. A high percentage of administrative de-

tention orders are renewed, but official statements indicate that the number in detention at any time has remained 2,500-3,000. PHRIC has field documented approximately 1,000 cases, and has preliminary information on the others. According to official Israeli sources, administrative detainees represent about 30 per cent of the total number arrested during the uprising (in September stated to be 18,000) and about 50 per cent of the total uprising arrestees still in detention.

CURFEWS, AREA CLOSURES AND SIEGES: On almost every day of the uprising, at least some areas of the West Bank and Gaza have been under curfew. The number of people affected ranges from a few thousand to several hundred thousand. The Gaza

Strip has been under night curfew since March, and some West Bank areas have had similar curfews for prolonged periods. The army also regularly closes areas to press or prevents entry to and exit from designated areas. On two occasions, during Land Day week in March and on Yom Kippur in September, the entire West Bank and Gaza were sealed off. The most serious closure practice is the imposition of military sieges on villages or camps for periods of several days or weeks, during which all utilities in the area are cut, entry and exit of people and products is prohibited; and villagers are prevented from harvesting or caring for crops.

INSTITUTIONAL CLOSURES: (Educational and Research Institutes): All West Bank schools were closed for 4 months in the spring of 1988 and not reopened for fall classes as of Nov. 15. All universities and colleges were also closed in January (now extended indefinitely). All educa-

(December 9, 1987 to October 9, 1988)		
Violation	1987 to Dec. 8	Dec. 9 to Oct. 9
Deaths	29	389
Due to Occupation Forces	19	333
Shot		242
Beaten/electrocuted		28
Teargassed		63
Due to Settlers or Collaborators	2	23
Under investigation or possible official responsibility	8	33
Injuries	180	45,000 (1)
Expulsions	8	33
Ordered; appealing	4	27
Administrative detentions: New Orders	157	4,000 (2)
Town arrests: 6 months — New Orders	108	7
Area closures & sieges:		
Curfews	60	(3)
Closed military zones (temporary)	34	(3)
Temporary institutional closures	62	(4)
Olive & fruit trees uprooted	18,000	(5)
Demolitions & sealings	132	278 (6)
Of houses "for security reasons"		
Demolished	10	92
Partially or Totally Sealed	23	19
Partially Demolished	2	20
Of unlicensed buildings (mostly homes)		
Demolished	95	143
Order to stop building	2	4
Pretext unknown — demolished		
Number of persons displaced	1,000+	2,500+

Japan again stirring emotions in America

By Gene Kramer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Japan, America's enemy in World War II, is again stirring passions on this side of the Pacific, ranging from anger, fear and mistrust to some affection and grudging admiration.

In four decades, Japan first evolved from the United States' humble and defeated enemy to a loyal protégé and ally. Now it has become a major provider of U.S. consumer goods as well as the best overseas customer for American farmers, an economic industrial rival, creditor, landlord and occasional critic.

President-elect George Bush, who is confronted with appointing a new ambassador to manage the relationship with this key ally, has spelled out his position on issues such as Japan's military and foreign aid role and trade.

To demands in Congress that Japan increase military spending and relieve some of the U.S. defense burden, Bush — who was a bomber pilot against Japan in World War II — notes that Asian neighbours "remain very sensitive to the issue of Japanese rearmament."

During the presidential campaign, he suggested Japan spend more for the military instead on foreign aid, a category in which it is about to surpass the United States. This raises another potential conflict, because Japan already threatens American dominance of such international institutions as the World Bank.

On trade, Bush is liable to follow President Ronald Reagan's line and seek to brake protectionist forces wanting to curb Japanese imports into the United States.

Politicians, especially Democrats who control Congress, say Japan is threatening to "buy up America." They cite skyrocketing rents and home prices in Hawaii and California cities favoured by Japanese investors.

Retiring U.S. ambassador Mike Mansfield says 47 of the 50 state governors have been to Tokyo to court Japanese investment, often offering incentives for factories. He says the result has been new jobs, ideas and technologies in middle America, and describes it as "a good proposition."

Jobless U.S. automobile workers blame Japan for their plight and bring out "remember Pearl Harbor" signs, even though consumer organisations and motorists have batted the imports as more reliable and economical than some Detroit products.

Japanese attempts to defuse the trade issue by building car and other plants in this country have led to new complaints.

Black congressmen accuse corporate Japan of racism in marketing, selection of U.S. factory sites and dealerships. Labour unions complain that Japanese managers resist their efforts to organise American employees.

The yen-dollar exchange rate tops the financial news, and Wall Street breathes easier so long as Japanese continue buying U.S. treasury debt.

Americans are showing greater interest in Japanese culture. American businessmen study Japanese management techniques. Japanese language courses are gradually becoming available in American public schools. Japanese restaurants, unknown in most American cities only a few years ago, are proliferating.

But high U.S. deficits prompt emotional worry about America's future. The Japanese are targeted because they account for the largest share of the trade deficit and are also major creditors with their heavy purchases of each issue of U.S. treasury notes, bills and bonds.

Economic relations between Japan and America "are so large and so crucial to both countries that unless we manage them intelligently, we could be facing a crisis of enormous dimensions," said Martin Weinstein, head of Japan programmes at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based private research organisation. "If the Japanese didn't buy our treasury bonds, our debt would be simply unmanageable. No other country is in that position."

In trade, America bought goods in foreign countries worth \$170 billion more than those it sold during the full year of 1987. Imports from Japan represented the largest share of the gap, \$37 billion.

This compared to a global trade deficit of \$25 billion and deficit with Japan of only \$6 billion in 1977, the first year of

Human rights violations under Israeli rule during the uprising

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INSTITUTIONAL CLOSURES: (Educational and Research Institutes): All West Bank schools were closed for 4 months in the spring of 1988 and not reopened for fall classes as of Nov. 15. All universities and colleges were also closed in January (now extended indefinitely). All educa-

tional and research institutes were closed by Civil Administration order in September 1988, ostensibly to prevent the holding of "alternative education" classes. Alternative education classes organised by popular committees have been specifically banned, as have the popular committees themselves. Jerusalem schools reopened in October 1988, one month later than scheduled. Gaza schools, individually and collectively have been closed for varying periods. The Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem was closed for one year on July 31.

(Charitable and Social Institutions): In-ash al Usra was closed for two years on June 20. The Uninn Charitable Societies headquarters in Jerusalem was closed for one year on Aug. 28. Licences of several other charitable associations have been revoked. Several youth centres, YMMAs and other social centres have also been closed. The shabiba youth organisation was outlawed. Popular village and camp committees were outlawed.

(Trade Unions): The Trade Union Complex in Jenin was closed for two years in March; the Professional Association Complex in Jerusalem closed on Aug. 25; and the General Federation of Trade Unions headquarters in Nablus closed on Aug. 26 for one year. Several other union offices are closed or inoperative to avoid arrests and permanent closure orders. The officers of most unions and federations and hundreds of unionists have been arrested.

(Press Offices and Printshops): Several press offices have been closed permanently or for varying periods; the Palestine Press Service was initially closed for 6 months, then extended an additional year. The licences of al Awdab (English and Arabic) and of Sbarara weekly were revoked. Several licensed and unlicensed printshops were closed and their equipment confiscated.

Estimated to be at least 100,000 fruit and olive trees, in addition to hundreds of thousands of seedlings and small plants were uprooted. The uprooting of trees is only one indicator of the widespread punitive destruction of trees and crops, mostly by the army but also by settlers. Bulldozers clearing streets of stones have also up-

rooted hundreds of trees and whole orchards have been uprooted as a punitive measure for alleged stone and molotov throwing in the area. In many instances of prolonged curfew or military siege, the army has carried out bulldozing and uprooting operations on trees and other crops, in addition to preventing regular harvest and maintenance of crops. Crops have been bulldozed or burned by both settlers and army in several locations of the West Bank and Gaza, often without official pretext.

In addition to the four homes

demolished for unstated reasons, several homeowners who received notices that their homes would be demolished because they were unlicensed, were also told that the demolitions were being carried out as a punishment for resistance activity occurring in the area, and as an example to others. Two homes in Habat were confiscated for a stated period of 3 months to be used as army observation points. The High Court rejected the homeowners' appeal on July 24; and the families were evacuated on July 28.

OPEN FORUM

Look who's talking

THE first thought that came to my mind when I heard that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was denied a visa to the United States to address the U.N. General Assembly because he is allegedly "an accessory to terrorism," was: "look who's talking."

It is unbelievable how a country like the U.S. would talk about who is terrorist and who isn't. It's impossible to forget that the U.S. government is considered by a majority of people to be the largest accessory to terrorism. Forget about their support to people like the contras in Nicaragua and UNITA rebels (though it's difficult to forget the outrageous number of civilian casualties caused by these two groups). Forget even about Israel which acts on a strict racist regime and particularly enjoys sacrificing small children who don't belong to their race.

Take the U.S. itself, which continues to brag about its democracy and humanity since their declaration of independence. Although slavery was abolished in 1865, and an omnibus civil rights bill banning discrimination against blacks and other minorities was passed in 1964, there still exists terrorism against them in America.

It is well-known that the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) is an existing organisation there. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the KKK is a secret terrorist organisation in the U.S. that committed terrorist attacks since its second establishment in 1915 and continued through the 70s and 80s. In fact, in 1984, six members of the KKK (and three of the American Nazi Party) were acquitted of federal civil rights charges growing out of the deaths of 5 persons at a rally (all members of the Communist Workers Party) in North Carolina in 1979. The KKK and Nazi defence lawyers had argued that the killers went to the rally because of their "patriotic, anti-Communist feelings" and that they had been provoked by the other side. And guess what? The not guilty verdict was passed by an all-white jury!

It is estimated that there are 6,500 members of the KKK today. Is that not a large number of terrorists running around in America?

Also, let us not forget the number of terrorist acts that are committed inside the U.S., or, as Americans call them, violent acts of crime. The total of crimes committed there in 1986 was estimated at 5,480 per 100,000 people (or 13.2 million crimes), out of which 617.3 were violent crimes, 37.5 rape, and 8.6 murder, all out of 100,000 people. Even though we agree this is not state terrorism, still, my friends, that is "terrifying!"

Back to the U.S. entry visas. The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, not only was a terrorist, but continues to be, and he doesn't even need a visa to enter America. Meir Kahane is another one.

Let's face it, people, the U.S. government is hypocritical and does not really want any peace in the region. An effective form of pressure on the U.S. to accept the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians and recognise the Palestinians' need for an independent state would require some form of work on the Arab countries' part. If boycotting the U.S. would not pressure their government into thinking twice before making their unrealistic, and obviously unjust decisions, what will? If they continue on this line of policy, who needs them?

Sana Atijeh

Mansfield's record 11-year Tokyo ambassadorship.

After 14 years as Senate Democratic leader, Mansfield said he felt he could leave Tokyo "with our heads high." The trade gap was finally narrowing as a result of hard-bargained market openings, the costlier yen and cheaper dollar and, after U.S. pressure, efforts by Nakasone and his successor, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, to boost Japanese domestic demand and imports.

But new flareups of acrimony can be expected between two countries with such different backgrounds now so economically interdependent. Pressure from the Democratic-

ing inappropriate for a country grown rich by exporting.

Announcing his retirement earlier this month, Mansfield said he felt he could leave Tokyo "with our heads high." The trade gap was finally narrowing as a result of hard-bargained market openings, the costlier yen and cheaper dollar and, after U.S. pressure, efforts by Nakasone and his successor, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, to boost Japanese domestic demand and imports.

But new flareups of acrimony can be expected between two countries with such different backgrounds now so economically interdependent. Pressure from the Democratic-

controlled Congress for greater efforts by U.S. allies to shoulder more defence costs promises to intensify during the Bush presidency.

U.S. lawmakers repeatedly complain that the United States with all its deficit problems spends 6 per cent of gross national product on defence while Japan, with all its new wealth, only 1 per cent, a threshold reached under Nakasone.

Pentagon officials have disputed the idea that Japan enjoys a "free ride," arguing that it provides the bulk of the destroyers and combat jets in northeast Asia, that its military budget

of \$30 billion a year is already higher than that of any other U.S. ally and its contribution of \$45,000 a year to the upkeep of each of the 55,000 U.S. military personnel based in Japan is the most generous in the world.

Tension continues high over the "buying up of America," in the form of Japanese investments in prime U.S. real estate and factories. At his farewell news conference in Tokyo, Mansfield questioned why nobody complains about Britain's \$75 billion of direct investment in America, with a two-year rise of \$15 billion, compared to Japanese investments of \$33 billion with a two-year rise of \$7.1 billion.

Gorbachev's reforms release pent-up ethnic feelings

By Mark J. Porubcansky
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's easing of long-standing strict restraint has released pent-up ethnic anger that has simmered in the Baltics to the Caucasus.

In a period of less than two weeks, on the southern and western fringes of the Soviet Union that have been tightly controlled from Moscow:

— Estonia has issued a "declaration of sovereignty" claiming local authority in all matters but foreign and defence policy.

— Officials in the neighbouring Baltic republics of Lithuania and Latvia blunted similar moves. But Lithuania, in a largely symbolic move, declared Lithuanian the official language of the republic and restored the flag that flew over the independent state between the World Wars.

— Ethnic fighting that began in February over control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region broke out again between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, this time in three Azerbaijan cities. At least six people have been killed and 126 injured.

— In the adjacent republic of Georgia, home of the late dictator Josef Stalin, thousands

gathered to protest proposed amendments to the Soviet constitution that critics charge would weaken the republics. Many expressed support for Estonia's declaration.

Such widespread assertion of local demands would have been inconceivable before Gorbachev's policy of glasnost, or openness, encouraged people and the press to express themselves more freely.

However, the Soviet leader's call for greater local autonomy has stirred ethnic feelings submerged for years beneath calls for national unity — and it has created new problems for the Kremlin.

NEWS ANALYSIS

On Saturday, the country's highest executive body found Estonia's effort to declare greater autonomy from Moscow unconstitutional and declared it invalid, the official media said.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, convened by Gorbachev, considered Estonia's challenge during a meeting to review constitutional amendments proposed by Gorbachev that had been criticised by many of the 15 ethnic republics for

restricting, rather than expanding, local autonomy.

The changes will be presented to the country's Supreme Soviet or parliament, next week.

Gorbachev said the Presidium adopted many changes in the proposed amendments. None of the reports specified what changes were made.

In the Baltics, "National self-consciousness is the essence of our restructuring, relating to our language, culture and, of course, our own government," said Algirdas Kaushidas, a member of the governing board of the Lithuanian movement for perestroika.

"The Baltics are Gorbachev's biggest stronghold. We're the biggest army he has," Kaushidas said in an interview from Vilnius. But V.N. Kudryatsev, head of the Soviet Academy of Sciences' institute of state and law, said in an interview published Friday by the TASS news agency that people were getting carried away.

"Here's a paradox: people, ruled by the best of intentions, wishing to democratise our society propose, it seems to me, a more perfect system," he said. "I don't see the logic. It seems to me that most of all emotion and haste are acting here."

There no longer appears to be a fear of Moscow in many of the republican capitals.

"If all the small peoples join together, we can win," an Estonian who travelled to Yerevan recently told a crowd gathered in the Armenian capital's opera square.

The Baltic activists, seeking greater cultural, political and economic autonomy under the banner of Gorbachev's reforms, were angered by the amendments to the Soviet constitution proposed by Gorbachev.

Under the current law republics theoretically are able to secede from the Soviet Union, but Moscow's control was so strong that any such move was inconceivable. Now that the fringes are clamoring for autonomy, the constitutional amendments would eliminate the right to secede.

The Supreme Soviets of Latvia, Estonia and Georgia demanded changes. Lithuania and Armenia were said to have rejected the amendments outright.

Gorbachev has praised the increased interest in politics as a sign that his reforms are taking hold.

"What's happening in Estonia is perestroika," Gorbachev told reporters in New Delhi last week.



Effects of the pesticides could be more concentrated in greenhouses than outdoors.

Pesticides, a balance of benefits and hazards

By Suchinta Wijesooriya
Special to the Jordan Times

ALTHOUGH the use of chemical pesticides in agriculture and horticulture is relatively recent in Jordan, it is now a standard practice due to beneficial effects on the crops. It is, however, a serious occupational health hazard for agricultural farm workers in Jordan today, and poses health risks to those living in the vicinity of farms.

Last year, 18 labourers on a Deir Alla farm suffered Methyl Bromide poisoning simultaneously.

In 1985, 50 girls at the Deir Alla Girls' School located near a farm were poisoned by Methyl Bromide fumes from used cans that had been left lying around near the school premises.

Hospitals and clinics to the Ghor often treat cases of children who have been poisoned by ingesting pesticide treated seeds that were stored in unlocked areas close to the family living quarters.

A variety of pesticides are used to treat seeds before they are planted, to spray fruits and vegetables while they are still on the trees, and to treat the soil before planting to prevent plant diseases caused by insects, fungus, bacteria and worms.

Methyl Bromide Alert

Methyl Bromide is a colourless, odourless and highly toxic gas used as a fumigant for soil sterilisation. In the commercial preparation used in agriculture, another gas,

Chloro-picric (a gas which causes the eyes to water) is mixed with Methyl Bromide in order to indicate its presence in the air. It has been used in the plastic greenhouses in the Jordan Valley since 1968, and has been responsible for a large percentage of pesticide poisoning among agricultural farm workers in the greenhouses.

1.5 lb cans of Methyl Bromide are distributed evenly on the greenhouse soil which is securely covered with plastic sheeting for the purpose of retaining the gases within its constraints. The labourers walk on the plastic sheeting, pressing on the cans with their feet to expel the gas into the soil. The plastic is removed 24 to 48 hours later, giving enough time for the gases to be released into the soil.

"The use of Methyl Bromide can be both safe and effective only under very strict conditions," explained Mr. Mohamed Mustafa Jalboush, of the Department of Agriculture in Deir Alla. "For instance, the soil temperature during the period of fumigation should be between 10 and 60 degrees centigrade. The plastic sheeting should not have any holes in it, and must be secured very firmly at the edges to prevent the gas from escaping into the air. The workers must remove their shoes when they are walking on the plastic sheeting to avoid rearing it. Also, the plastic must not be removed before 48 hours, and when it is removed, it is very important that the workers wear protective clothing, as the

cans may still have some gases remaining in them. The used cans must be destroyed and disposed of under the ground immediately. In all the cases of poisoning so far discovered, these instructions have not been followed."

Dr. Ibrahim El Kurdi, an internist at Abu Obeida Hospital in the Jordan Valley, described the health hazards of Methyl Bromide. "Poisoning occurs when the gas enters the body through inhalation, ingestion and skin contact. The incidence of severe poisoning is not very high, but long term minor exposure can seriously affect the central nervous system, and the respiratory system. Very often, workers don't know they are being poisoned, and that the symptoms they experience such as numbness and tingling of limbs, weakness of hands and feet, staggering and unsteadiness, restlessness, headache, loss of memory, and confusion, are related to Methyl Bromide exposure. They usually don't seek medical care for such symptoms. We only see the obvious cases such as in instances of mass exposure."

It is also important to wash hands and face thoroughly, and to remove and wash clothes immediately after using Methyl Bromide. Facilities for strict adherence to these procedures should be provided by farm owners.

under the plastic sheeting, and the risk of it escaping into the air is lower. The problem of improper disposal is also eliminated."

Information Campaign

According to a 1984 study made by pharmacist Ms. Georgette Fattaleh, field workers in the Jordan Valley, where Jordan's agriculture is concentrated, are inadequately sensitised to the importance of the proper handling of pesticides, endangering their own health and that of the consumers of agricultural products.

The National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT), an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, is spearheading a campaign to disseminate information on the safe use of pesticides to farmers. Other agencies including the Occupational Safety and Health Institute, University of Jordan Department of Agriculture and the Department of Civil Defence are contributing to the campaign, with funding and technical assistance from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

In the next few months posters, videotapes and various other means will be produced and used to get the health and safety messages to farm owners and agricultural workers in the country. A follow-up will be made to assess the effectiveness of the campaign.

Alternatives to Methyl Bromide

According to Jalboush, there are alternatives to Methyl Bromide. "Other methods for soil sterilisation include the use of Basamid granules, Vapam liquid and Diatrapex liquid which are less expensive, less hazardous, but take two weeks to process as opposed to 2 days needed for Methyl Bromide processing. Solar soil sterilisation methods offer a completely safe and inexpensive alternative. However, this process takes 6 to 8 weeks, and is dependent on the use of water at a time of year when it is scarce. Although all these methods are much safer and less expensive than Methyl Bromide, farmers choose it because it is the quickest and easiest method."

Jalboush said that the use of 50 kg cylinders of Methyl Bromide is being encouraged as an alternative to the small cans. "The gas is released through a hose placed

Preventing Poisonings of Farm Workers

In October and November, farmers begin soil sterilisation in the greenhouses of the Jordan Valley.

"Poisoning can be avoided through the use of adequate personal protective equipment and information," commented Ms. Amal Hijazi, Safety Engineer at the Occupational Safety and Health Institute — an agency of the Ministry of Labour.

Farm owners are urged to provide their employees with protective clothing, such as masks and respirators, gloves, coveralls, boots and goggles, that cover the mouth, nose, eyes and skin.



A farmworker sprays the controversial pesticides on the crop.

Cairo's Zabaleen a success story

By Martin Wright

CAIRO, Egypt — The enterprising Zabaleen people of Cairo, who for decades have made a precarious living by collecting — and literally living on — the refuse of Egypt's sprawling capital, are ensuring their future: by mechanisation, and raising credit for home-based women's businesses.

Members of the Coptic Christian minority, the Zabaleen have acted as the city's rubbish collectors since they migrated from northern Egypt over 50 years ago. One of the commonest sights on Cairo's streets is of a Zabaleen donkey cart, piled high with garbage, threading its way between speeding buses and cars to the Muqattam hills, a line of bare outcrops just south-east of the city to which the Zabaleen retreated as the city grew.

Here the Zabaleen live among the rubbish they have collected. While the meo take the carts down into Cairo, the women sort through the spoils, sifting out plastics, paper and metal for sale to the recycling industry. They also raise pigs, feeding on scraps brought on the carts.

In the eyes of the authorities, the Zabaleen have had something of an image problem. However efficient they might have been at clearing refuse, the sight of rickety carts pulled by donkeys clashed with the promotion of the city as a modern capital.

Foreign television crews, keen for footage of photogenic poverty, have portrayed the Zabaleen as symptomatic of a "backward" Cairo. This has caused resentment.

Until recently, the municipal authorities were also concerned that with their traditional, unmechanised approach, the Zaba-

leen would be unable to cope with all the refuse generated by the city's rapid growth.

Theo the Zabaleen's community association drew up a plan for progressive mechanisation, with the help of "Environment Quality International" (EQI) — an organisation of sympathetic Cairo professionals — and a grant from the U.S. Ford Foundation.

The association then bid against several major companies for the right to operate a motorised collection service.

The Zabaleen won. Gradually, their donkeys are being replaced by trucks, which have a much larger carrying capacity than the carts, and are better able to deal with the steep gradients leading up to the Muqattam dumping grounds.

Their livelihood secured, the Zabaleen have now begun to look for ways to improve the quality of their lives. Grants from the British aid agency Oxfam and the Ford Foundation helped the community association to set up their own recycling plant — which is beginning to generate a profit that can be ploughed back into other community enterprises.

Working with the EQI, the community association has set up credit schemes to help Zabaleen families to replace their corrugated iron and hardboard shacks with brick buildings, and to carry out their own small-scale recycling projects.

The early loans went mostly to men; now Zabaleen women are taking advantage of the credit system to set up their own small co-operatives, in which individual loans are guaranteed by all the co-op members. In so doing, they are expanding their role in the community's economy beyond

that of merely supporting their menfolk, to launching their own enterprises.

Would-be members of the women's co-operatives are assessed on the basis of their reputation within the community; if a woman is seen as untrustworthy, she is denied membership until such time as she proves herself capable of acting responsibly.

One group of women who run small food stalls has used a loan to hire a van for bulk purchases from wholesalers in the city. This enables them to re-sell the goods at reasonable prices, thereby benefiting the whole community; individual stallholders used to have to make frequent purchases from retail outlets, leading to higher-than-average prices at the stalls. There are also plans to build a community market.

Other groups have concentrated on developing part-time work which they can fit around their other tasks of child-care and refuse sorting. One such enterprise, involving assembling table lamps for Cairo dealers, has proved so successful and popular with the women that its market is nearing saturation point. Other projects range from rearing goats to putting beads onto furniture racks.

Despite encouragement from female EQI workers, many of the Zabaleen women initially doubted their ability to run their own business ventures — unsurprisingly, since this had always been a male preserve.

After the early successes, however, increasing numbers of women are becoming involved — in what, for many, is nothing short of a complete transformation of their working lives — Panos features.



A Zabaleen on his way home, after a long day's work

CORRECTION

AN ARTICLE by Nelly Lama that appeared on Nov. 26 on this page was erroneously entitled "The Bani Hamida project: making use of culture." The title of the article should have read as follows: "Save the Children Federation's urban small scale enterprise project: making use of culture." The above mentioned projects are two independent and separate projects run by the Save the Children Federation in Amman. The Jordan Times apologises for the error.

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OPEC clinches deal to cut oil production

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — OPEC oil ministers gave their formal approval Monday to a new agreement that would cut crude output in an effort to raise prices.

Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Hisham Nazer came out of a final session of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and said the deal was completed.

All 13 members of the group signed the accord, which sets a target price of \$18 a barrel.

The production ceiling for the nations was put at 18.5 million barrels a day, down from the current estimated 22.5 million barrels a day. The six-month agreement goes into effect Jan. 1.

OPEC President Riwanu Lukman said the accord would have a "positive, very positive" effect on the oil market. He predicted prices could reach \$18 a barrel "by June."

"It's a hell of a lot of oil to take

out of the market," he said. "It should shock the price sharply up very quickly."

Analysts have said such an agreement could send crude oil prices climbing by \$1 or \$2 a barrel.

Following the news of the OPEC accord, the spot price of North Sea Brent, the most widely traded international crude oil, jumped to \$14.85 a barrel Monday in London, up sharply from its early-morning low of \$13.90 a barrel.

"Trading has been dynamic but not that active. There have been a whole bunch of swings," said Peter Gignoux, manager of the international energy desk at Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. in London.

Under a previous agreement, OPEC's output had a ceiling of 15 million barrels a day. Iraq had refused to join that pact because it had a smaller quota than the two Gulf war foes, Iran. The two countries entered a ceasefire in the eight-year-old war in August.

Analysts say almost all the OPEC nations were producing more than the quotas called for in the old agreement.

The new agreement brings Iraq back into the quota system. Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi told reporters, "We are happy to be back. This has been one of the important gatherings of OPEC."

A statement issued at the end of the conference said Saudi Arabia would continue to pump most of the group's oil, with a quota of 4.52 million barrels a day.

Iraq and Iran have equal ceilings at 2.64 million barrels a day, followed by Venezuela at 1.64 million barrels.

A dispute between Iran and Iraq over their ceiling had stalled the ministers' talks, which dragged on for two weeks.

The deal appeared to be set over the weekend, but Sunday, Saudi Arabia urged that a minimum floor of \$15 a barrel be included in the new agreement.

FJCC chief reviews Jordan import policy

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) President Mohammad Asfour said Monday that the increase in Jordanian imports is attributed to a growth in demand for basic and capital goods that are needed for investment projects and socio-economic development plans.

The increase in imports of consumer goods came as "an inevitable result of the weak productive base in the Jordanian economy on one side, and the growth of population and increase in per capita income on the other," Asfour told the Arab regional seminar on the management of imports in Jordan.

He reviewed the comprehensive developments witnessed by the Jordanian economy over the last three decades which were embodied in the success Jordan achieved in the socio-economic fields, Petra reported.

In a paper he presented to the seminar, Asfour explained that Jordan was following a liberal policy vis-a-vis its foreign trade in which the management of imports depends largely on custom fees with some use of quantity control as a tool to control and direct imports in a way that serves economic development in a free economy which encourages private enterprise.

Asfour said that import procedures, government tenders and foreign exchange regulations all form important elements in the import management system in Jordan in addition to the industrialisation policy which is based on import substitution as an important part of this system.

He said that the decision by the monetary authorities to manage the Jordan dinar's exchange rate was a policy aimed at rationing imports.

The paper reviewed the problems facing the field of imports in Jordan, pointing out that field studies carried out by FJCC on the subject have shown a significant increase in the awareness of the importance of this subject among many Jordanian institutions and companies.

Bush seeks congressional unity on deficit reductions

WASHINGTON (R) — President-elect Bush, back from a Thanksgiving holiday at his Maine seaside retreat, plans early meetings with congressional leaders as he rounds out his cabinet and seeks help on how to reduce a huge budget deficit.

Bush, whose presidency begins Jan. 20, met Monday with Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas, whom he beat out for the Republican presidential nomination.

Amid growing concern about the huge federal budget deficit that is upsetting markets and helping drive down the dollar, Bush will meet Tuesday over breakfast with the entire Senate Republican leadership.

Democrats, who control both the House and Senate, Tuesday

will pick a new Senate majority leader to replace Robert Byrd of West Virginia, who is stepping down as leader.

Bush has already met House Speaker Jim Wright and is expected to hold a similar early meeting with the winner of the Senate majority leadership contest.

Sunday, the three contenders — Senators Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and George Mitchell of Maine — each said they were awaiting action by Bush on a deficit-reduction plan.

All three said on U.S. television that it was up to Bush to make the first move but suggested the president-elect might have to renounce his campaign pledge of no tax rises.

"By custom, common courtesy and what I think is the wisest practice, President-elect Bush should come forward with his plan and when he does we will meet him halfway and work with him," Mitchell said.

He added that "everything has to be discussed but there aren't going to be any changes in social security."

Inouye said all congressional members have "made a solemn promise to the people of the United States that this (social security) will be sacrosanct."

Bennett said "the chickens were coming home to roost" for Bush's campaign claim that he could lower the deficit without raising taxes by promoting higher rates of economic growth.

U.S. makes progress in cutting trade deficit

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. trade deficit for the third quarter of 1988 shrank to \$28.53 billion, its smallest level in three years, as exports of American goods surged to a record high, the government said Monday.

The trade shortfall in the July-September quarter followed a revised deficit of \$30.15 billion in the second quarter and a first-quarter gap of \$35.18 billion, the Commerce Department said.

The quarterly report, which presents trade data on a balance of payments basis that excludes military sales and the cost of insurance and shipping, suggests the country is making more progress in cutting its trade deficit.

The department had previously calculated the second-quarter deficit at \$29.94 billion.

The deficit has been shrinking since reaching a quarterly peak of \$41.19 billion in the last three months of 1987. After adjustment for inflation, the gap has been on a narrowing trend since the third quarter of 1986.

Economists generally give the quarterly report more credence than the government's monthly trade figures which are more widely known, especially in financial markets.

In the third quarter, exports rose \$2.7 billion, or three per cent, to a record \$81.31 billion while imports rose \$1.1 billion, or one per cent, to \$110.84 billion.

The deficit for all of 1987 was a record \$160.28 billion on a balance of payments basis. In inflation-adjusted terms, it was \$161.21 billion.

In the first nine months of this year, the deficit has been running at an annual rate of \$125.16 billion, or \$125.51 billion in inflation-adjusted terms.

The U.S. trade deficit with Japan rose \$100 million to \$12.0 billion in the third quarter, with Western Europe it fell \$1.2 billion to \$2.8 billion, and with newly industrialised countries in Asia it rose \$1.6 billion to \$8.0 billion, the Commerce Department said.

The shortfall with Canada fell \$1.1 billion to \$2.2 billion in the third quarter and with Latin America it fell \$1.2 billion to \$1.3 billion, it said.

Non-agricultural exports in the third quarter rose \$2.0 billion, or three per cent, to a record \$71.9 billion, with the largest gains in machinery and industrial supplies.

Exports of automotive parts to Canada and civilian aircraft decreased in the third quarter, the department said.

Agricultural exports rose \$0.7 billion, or eight per cent, to \$10.4 billion, the highest level since the second quarter of 1982.

Non-petroleum imports rose \$1.5 billion, or one per cent, to \$101.0 billion in the third quarter, with the biggest gains coming in cars from countries other than Canada, consumer goods, non-electrical machinery and industrial supplies.

The average price of imported cars in the third quarter fell 18 per cent from West Germany and one per cent from Japan.

Petroleum imports fell \$0.4 billion, or four per cent, to \$9.9 billion in the third quarter because the average price fell to \$14.22 a barrel from \$15.16 in the second quarter.

The volume of petroleum imports rose to 7.5 million barrels a day in the third quarter from 7.4 million in the second.

Water privatisation looms as gamble for Thatcher

LONDON (AP) — Privatisation, the cornerstone of Prime Minister Thatcher's capitalist revolution, faces one of its biggest gambles yet as the nation's water supply heads for the stock exchange.

Oil, gas the telephone services and a host of other industries nationalised by past Labour Party governments have gone on sale since the Tories came to office in 1979.

Last week, the government announced shares in British Steel Plc. will be offered to the public at 125 pence (\$2.29) each, making the value of the state-owned steel maker \$2.5 billion (\$4.6 billion).

The British Steel sale precedes government efforts to sell off Britain's water and electricity industries beginning late next year.

The sale of the English and Welsh water supply is a bold venture. Coupled with the planned sale of electricity, it shows that the Thatcher government, far from flagging after nearly 10 years in power, is pursuing its free-market doctrines with undiminished zeal.

The privatisation of water and electricity were the highlights of the 1989 legislative programme announced recently.

The water will be ready for sale within a year, and electricity sometime in 1990.

Although electricity is by far the larger undertaking, with expected revenue of £20 billion (\$36 billion) for the government, it is

water that has attracted the most controversy.

It is the most basic resource the government has chosen to sell, and consumer groups worry that prices will rise, and that once subject to the profit motive, water purity will decline.

It is risky because unlike electricity, water is not generally seen as a growth industry. The water authorities are £5.2 billion (\$9.4 billion) in debt, and the government may have to write off that debt to make the share offer more attractive.

The Victorian Water and Drainage infrastructure is crumbling in many areas and billions are needed for repairs and for bringing water up to the exacting new standards of purity set by the European Community.

Privatisations have raised more than £20 billion (\$40 billion) for the treasury and enabled it to slash taxes and reach its present budget surplus.

But in the case of water, comments the left-leaning Guardian, "whether a private sector solution will be able to raise standards, while trying to extract increasing returns for its shareholders, remains hugely questionable."

No figure has been set on water privatisation, although analysts expect it to raise £5 billion to £7 billion (\$9-12.5 billion) for the government.

U.S., USSR agree to 2-year grain deal

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union and United States concluded a new grain pact Monday after eight months of difficult negotiations.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov told a news conference the Soviet Union would buy at least an annual nine

million tonnes of grain and soybeans from the United States under the pact which would run until Dec. 31, 1990.

The pact, which came into force Oct. 1, was effectively a continuation of a five-year agreement between the two sides

which expired in September.

"The agreement provides for annual purchase of nine million tonnes of grain and soybeans and provides when necessary to buy additional amounts," Gerasimov said.

He said the two sides also agreed to hold talks on the pro-

longation of the deal beyond its expiry date.

As part of the protocol, the Soviet Union had already bought 5.5 million tonnes of maize and more than one million tonnes of soybeans for delivery in the 1988/9 agricultural year.

Israeli 'socialism' comes under pressure

TEL AVIV (AP) — The near-collapse of Israel's largest industrial conglomerate, owned by the Histadrut labour federation, has forced a rethinking of the socialism on which the Zionist state claims its economy was built.

Koor Industries, with annual sales of more than \$2 billion, controls 150 firms and employs 27,000 people making products ranging from high-technology electronics to tyres, fruit juice and refrigerators.

Koor Industries, with annual sales of more than \$2 billion, controls 150 firms and employs

27,000 people making products ranging from high-technology electronics to tyres, fruit juice and refrigerators.

Koor lost \$250 million last year. In October, it defaulted on a \$20 million loan from New York Bankers Trust Company, and the bank demanded its liquidation.

Koor is trying to stave off bankruptcy with a government bailout and a court-backed reorganisation plan.

But Koor's problems are symptomatic of the growing financial ills that have afflicted Israel's

economy.

Even the kibbutzim, the communal farms that were the backbone of Israel's ideal of sharing work and profits, are in serious financial trouble. The Kibbutz Industries Association announced last week that its members were struggling to pay off \$4 million in debt.

The economic problems have prompted increasing calls for a more capitalistic, free enterprise system.

"The economy has suffocated," Stef Wertheimer, a wealthy businessman, wrote in the

Jerusalem Post.

Israel's tradition of "work as a source of employment rather than a source of profits" failed, Wertheimer wrote.

Even Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party, which controls the Histadrut and founded the "socialised" economy, says he favours selling off some state-owned companies.

The Histadrut and state-owned companies account for up to 40 per cent of Israel's \$35 billion gross domestic product, economic analysts say.

Saudis want more Japanese investments

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabian and Japanese businessmen agreed at a meeting Sunday to set up two committees to handle problems over trade and joint ventures.

Saudi officials and businessmen

have criticised the slow pace of Japanese investment in the kingdom, especially since Tokyo remains its top supplier of goods. Japanese exports to Saudi Arabia were worth \$3.3 billion last year, while Saudi exports to

Japan were worth \$7.4 billion.

Industry Ministry officials gave the Japanese businessmen a list of investment projects. But the Japanese said several problems must first be resolved, including double taxation and difficulties in

getting visas for workers on joint ventures.

The talks were organised by the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Japan Cooperation Centre for the Middle East.

Iran, Turkey and Pakistan to launch satellite

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran, Turkey and Pakistan have announced a plan to jointly launch a satellite to boost communications between the three countries, the official Islamic Republic News Agency has reported.

The agency said the satellite would be launched under the auspices of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) formed by the three countries in 1964 to coordinate joint economic activities.

The satellite would be called Ecosat, it said.

The plan was announced during a meeting in Tehran between Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, members of the ECO secretariat in Tehran and the ambassadors of Pakistan and Turkey.

The organisation's activities were suspended following the 1979 Iranian revolution, but later

were revived at Iran's request.

The agency said ECO also is studying expansion and improvement of roads, railroads and ports in the three countries.

It also is examining plans for a joint shipping line and a joint bank with start-up capital totalling \$300 million, it said.

The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan are expected to meet in Tehran early in the Iranian new year, which starts March 21, the agency reported.

World milk output expected to rise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Global milk production is expected to increase further in 1989, the U.S. Agriculture Department said.

Milk output rose slightly this year to an estimated 428.2 million tonnes and could increase to 431.7 million tonnes in 1989,

according to a report by the department's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The production estimates were based on forecasts for 38 selected countries.

Production in the 12-nation European Community was forecast next year at 107 million tonnes, down fractionally from

107.8 million tonnes this year. Milk output in the Soviet Union was indicated at 107.3 million tonnes, up from 105.5 million in 1988.

The U.S. output was forecast at 65.3 million tonnes, down slightly from 65.5 million tonnes indicated for this year.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australian stocks were sold across the board following gloomy news about interest rates overseas. At the close of floor trading the All Ordinaries Index had fallen 26.5 to 1,479.5.

TOKYO — Share prices closed sharply lower because of worries about direction of oil prices and interest rates, and due to technical reasons. The Nikkei fell 380.27 to 28,983.32.

HONG KONG — A lack of buying interest exacerbated the effect of light follow-through selling from Friday and pushed the market steadily lower. The Hang Seng Index shed 31 points to 2,625.08.

SINGAPORE — Trading volume dropped to near the year's low as operators stayed on the sidelines due to uncertainty about foreign markets. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 8.77 to 1,002.55.

BOMBAY — Share prices closed mixed in a subdued market. Brokers said higher contango (carry-forward) charges and heavy daily margins on both sales and purchases dampened sentiment. Tata Steel gained 3.75 rupees to 1,063.75.

FRANKFURT — Fears that higher oil prices would boost inflation and prompt a U.S. interest rate rise pushed shares lower in thin trading. The Dax Index fell 16.28 to 1,259.13.

ZURICH — Shares closed easier across the board in low turnover on expectations that U.S. interest rates would rise. The Swiss Index fell seven to 912.9.

PARIS — Prices ended down but off their lows of the session on some late bargain-hunting.

LONDON — Prices were steady around the 1,780 support point on the FTSE 100 share index in late trading, mirroring Wall Street's muted response to news that a clutch of U.S. banks raised their prime rates. By 1630 GMT the index was down 13.1 to 1,781.6.

NEW YORK — Stocks turned lower following the prime rate increase but reaction was mild because the rise had been predicted. The Dow was down five at 2,070.



King receives Platini

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Monday received renowned French football player Michael Platini. Platini (second from left), head of the Platini Foundation, was given a \$10,000 cheque by His Majesty in support of the foundation's work in its fight against drugs. Having quit playing football 17 months ago, Platini is now in charge of the French national football team. He will be taking

part in a game between two teams made up of players from Al Faisaly and Difaiein against a team made up of Al Hussein and Ramtha team players Tuesday. Platini held a press conference Monday night at the Al Hussein Youth Club, where he met with local and foreign journalists and sports enthusiasts.

Leconte wins Belgian Indoor Championships

BRUSSELS (AP) — Henri Leconte of France produced copybook serve-and-volley tennis Sunday and edged Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 to win the \$490,000 Belgian Indoor Championships.

Leconte never lost his serve in a sparkling display of his all-court play and got the edge when Hlasek's nerves proved more brittle in the two tiebreakers. Building on that momentum, Leconte succeeded the only service break in the penultimate game of the match to earn \$74,500 and his second Grand Prix victory this year.

"It is a great satisfaction to win against the eighth player in the world," said Leconte, the 13th-ranked player in the world. "Here I played some of my best tennis."

Hlasek, who also played near error-free tennis in the final, just failed to win his third consecutive Grand Prix event and saw his 14-game winning streak snapped by Leconte's superlative play. "I played my best tennis of the week, and still I lost," Hlasek said.

On the fast supreme court surface, the match often had a touch of Wimbledon about it, with both players dominating their serves and thrilling the 4,000-strong crowds with crisp volleys, subtle lobs and booming passing shots and service returns.

Leconte, who has sometimes crumbled under pressure, never gave Hlasek a chance in the tiebreakers and whipped three passing shots past the luckless Swiss to get the vital breakthrough in the last set.

"I don't understand how I lost," said Hlasek, who made \$37,250.

Leconte came to Brussels with little hope of winning after hurting a shoulder muscle in the Johannesburg Grand Prix last week. But the shoulder kept up and his confidence grew in each match, he said.

Both players now go to New York for the year-ending Masters Tournament.

Hlasek, who had won the London and Johannesburg Grand Prix Tournament before coming here, just failed to become the



Henri Leconte

first player since Boris Becker in 1986 to win three events in a row. Both players relied on their serve-and-volley game on the fast surface to keep pace with each other, but the tiebreakers made the difference.

Hlasek almost had enough with his serve alone. He had three aces in the opening game and 15

overall. Leconte saved one set point in the 11th game before forcing the tiebreaker. Hlasek then served his first double fault and never recovered, losing the tiebreaker 7-3.

The second set provided very much the same scenario.

Baptism may change Tyson's life

CLEVELAND (R) — Heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, buffeted recently by personal problems, was baptised Sunday and said later he felt religion would change his life.

Tyson said he felt "born again," after the three-hour ceremony attended by promoter Don King and the Reverend Jesse Jackson, a former Democratic presidential candidate.

Tyson wore a long, white sheet-like robe and matching cap throughout the ceremony which was performed by the Reverend

Henry Payden, with assistance from Jackson. While King stood only a few feet away from the large tub-like font, Jackson placed his hand on Tyson's shoulder and prayed with Payden who was standing in the large tub with Tyson. Payden bent the champion backward, quickly submerging him in the water.

Tyson, who was broadly smiling after the service, is in the process of a divorce from his actress wife, Robin Givens. The champion is also embroiled in a

bitter dispute with his manager, Bill Cayton, over Tyson's insistence that King promote his fights.

Tyson said last month he would buy a home near Cleveland, King's hometown. King owns a 187-acre estate about 72 kilometres from Cleveland.

More than 100 people mobbed Tyson when he tried to avoid reporters and quickly leave after the service.

King said after the service "It is just magnificent that he (Tyson) has found Jesus, has been baptised and reborn again. It is a wonderful feeling and I am so happy."

Napoli, scoring at will?

ROME (AP) — With nine goals in its last two games, Napoli's world class attack seems almost to be able to score at will.

Brazilian striker Careca, Italian forward Andrea Carnevale and Argentine wizard Diego Armando Maradona compose the league's most dynamic and productive offence.

The terrific trio showed its prowess Sunday in a 4-1 victory at home against Milan. Maradona tallied at 43 minutes, and Careca, who last week scored three goals at Turin against Juventus, added a pair to put the match out of reach.

The victory, following a 5-3 triumph a week earlier over

Juventus, kept Napoli two points behind front-runner Internazionale of Milan in the First Division standings.

Inter, with 13 points, beat Cesena at home 1-0. Midfielder Gianfranco Matteoli's goal scored after only 10 seconds equaled a 45-year-old league mark for the fastest goal on record.

Nicknamed Ma-Ca-Ca, for Maradona, Careca, and Carnevale, Napoli's dangerous trident was forged out of design but of necessity. Napoli coach Ottavio Bianchi, a shrewd and cautious tactician, had been reluctant to field a lineup with three attackers. Carnevale, who is the starting forward on Italy's Olympic team, began the season on the bench.

But key midfielder Giovanni Romano, who also plays on the Olympic team, suffered a leg injury which will sideline him for the season. Brazilian halfback Alemão, whom Napoli acquired over the summer from Spain's Atletico Madrid specifically to add weight to its midfield, con-

tracted a case of hepatitis and will be out for at least four months.

Having no other choice, Bianchi had to put his money on the trifecta of Ma-Ca-Ca. His three horses have come in. Careca and Carnevale are first and second in league scoring with seven and six goals respectively.

Maradona continues to amaze. His opening goal Sunday — a looping pass from Massimo Crippa taken just over midfield, a false control, and a violent header over the outstretched arms of leaping Milan goalie Giovanni Galli from 20 metres out — was the latest in a series of "numbers" which only Maradona can perform.

One of the reasons for the success of Napoli's offensive trident is the team's impregnable midfield. Massimo Crippa, Fernando Denapoli and Luca Fusi are three tough, physical players who pounce on most loose balls at midfield, breaking up most Rival offensive attempts before they start.

Abdul Jabbar phasing out of basketball

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kareem Abdul Jabbar has prepared mentally for retirement for three years so it doesn't surprise him that the Los Angeles Lakers are getting ready for his departure by not banding him the basketball as much.

The 2.18-metre centre said he hopes that "consistent" will be the word used to describe his career in the National Basketball Association.

Abdul Jabbar, 41, entered the season with 533 more appearances than any other active player, a feat he doesn't think any player will match soon.

"Even to me that's staggering looking back," he said. "My greatest accomplishment was playing as well as I have for as long as I have."

The New York native said he would miss his NBA friends when he retires, but quickly noted that he would not miss the travel. Still, the two decades of play "went by in a flash."

At a farewell ceremony Monday night in Philadelphia, Abdul Jabbar will see Julius Erving, who retired from the Sixers two years ago after a similar farewell tour.

Abdul Jabbar admits the farewell tour has been "taxing" but adds, "It's not unreasonably difficult."

After he retires, Abdul Jabbar will do some acting, but plans to concentrate on production work. He said he will spend some time away from basketball and has no intention of coaching.

"I've had enough competition for a couple of lifetimes," he said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Evert beats Navratilova

CALIFORNIA (AP) — Chris Evert beat Martina Navratilova 7-6, 7-5 Sunday night on a slow surface in the forum as part of the Exhibition Michelin Challenge Series. Evert still trails in this long-standing series, 43-38.

E. Germans dominate speedskating

BERLIN (AP) — Eric Flaim of the United States won a 5,000-metre World Cup speedskating race in East Berlin Sunday, preventing a sweep by East German skaters. Flaim took the event in seven minutes, 12.19 seconds, edging Michael Spielmann of East Germany who finished second in 7:12.24. Thomas Gustafsson of Sweden was a distant third in 7:15.17. Olympic champion Uwe-Jens Mey of East Germany scored a double victory, winning the 500 and 1,000-metre events. Mey, who also won a 500 race Saturday, clocked 38.10 seconds in the shorter distance and 1:18.39 in the 1,000. East German racers dominated the women's events, sweeping both 1,000 and 3,000-metre events.

Steffi Graf voted Germany's top athlete

BADEN-BADEN (AP) — Swimmer Michael Gross and tennis ace Steffi Graf have been voted West Germany's top athletes of 1988 in a poll of sports writers published Sunday. Gross, who won the 200-metre butterfly gold medal at the Seoul Olympics, took the male athlete's title for the fourth time. Graf, winner of the Grand Slam and an Olympic gold medal, swept the honour in the female category for the third year in a row.

Turks celebrate UEFA ruling

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turks Sunday bailed a decision by an appeals panel of European soccer's governing body that a salary of Turkey will not have to replay its second-leg championship match with Xamax Neuchatel of Switzerland. The ruling Sunday by the five-member panel means Galatasaray advances to the quarterfinals with an aggregate score of 5-3. But the panel of French, West German, Scottish, Maltese and Romanian members said the Turkish team must play its next two European cup games at a stadium at least 300 kilometres from Istanbul.

Austrians dominate women's skiing

AUSTRIA (AP) — The first weekend of World Cup Skiing showed nothing has changed on the men's side, but there may be a shift of the power on the women's. The men's power struggle picked up where it left off last season as Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland and Alberto Tomba of Italy started their personal duel. Zurbriggen, the defending overall World Cup champion, won the men's super-giant season-opener Sunday. However, Tomba's fourth place pleased him and showed that the Italian was ready to challenge in more than slaloms and giant slaloms. The women's division found the usually dominant Swiss hard to find in the top 15. Just two made it while a horde of Austrians — seven in all — were there. At the top of the heap was a Frenchwoman, Carole Merle. She took Saturday's women's super-g from a starting position of 25.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

DUPLICATE DRIVES ONE CRAZY

Both vulnerable. South deals. NORTH ♠ 876 ♣ K ♢ A Q 9 8 7 4 2 ♠ A 7

WEST EAST ♠ Q 5 3 2 ♠ 4 ♣ J 9 6 ♣ Q 10 7 5 2 ♣ J 6 3 ♣ 10 ♠ K Q J ♠ 10 9 6 5 3 2 ♠ A K J 10 9 ♠ A 5 4 3 ♠ K 5 ♠ 8 4

The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠ At rubber bridge, when you are in slam territory your main concern is to find the safest contract. At duplicate, you often choose the highest-scoring slam. That can lead to interesting play.

Any rubber bridge player worth his salt would settle in six diamonds, a contract that would not tax anybody's playing skill too greatly. Indeed, you are on a spade finesse for an overtrick. When this hand was

played in a pair tournament, however, many chose the higher-scoring six-spade contract. Not too many had the skill to bring it home, unfortunately.

After West's normal lead of the king of clubs, your first concern should be to get rid of dummy's club loser. So win the ace of clubs, cash the king of hearts and come to hand with the ace of trumps. Take a club discard on the ace of hearts. What next?

If trumps are 3-2, you can draw another high trump and start running the diamonds. But what if trumps are 4-1? You can give yourself an extra chance by now leading the jack of trumps from hand! If a defender wins, you are in control. Capture any return, draw trumps and run diamonds. But what if a defender has four trumps and refuses to win the second spade?

Now you will need a slice of luck—you have to find the defender with four spades holding three diamonds as well. Ruff your losing club, come to hand with the king of diamonds and cash the king of spades. Now start to run diamonds, and hope that you can discard both losing hearts before the defender ruffs.

NHL STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — National Hockey League Standings after games played on Sunday.

Wales Conference

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
New York Rangers	12	8	3	27	94	81
Pittsburgh Penguins	12	10	0	24	105	101
Washington Capitals	11	10	2	24	84	83
New Jersey Devils	8	11	4	20	74	87
Philadelphia Flyers	9	15	1	19	92	98
New York Islanders	7	13	2	16	68	88

Adams Division

	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Montreal Canadiens	13	9	3	29	96	86
Boston Bruins	10	8	5	25	81	69
Buffalo Sabres	19	12	2	22	87	100
Quebec Nordiques	8	13	2	18	84	104
Hartford Whalers	8	12	1	17	71	80

Campbell Conference

Norris Division

	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Detroit Red Wings	12	7	4	28	92	86
Toronto Maple Leafs	11	12	1	23	83	91
St. Louis Blues	8	9	3	19	66	76
Chicago Blackhawks	6	14	4	16	98	115
Minnesota North Stars	5	13	4	14	68	93

Smythe Division

	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Calgary Flames	15	4	3	33	97	56
Los Angeles Kings	15	8	0	30	123	96
Edmonton Oilers	13	7	3	29	99	85
Vancouver Canucks	11	11	4	26	88	78
Winnipeg Jets	9	7	3	21	79	76

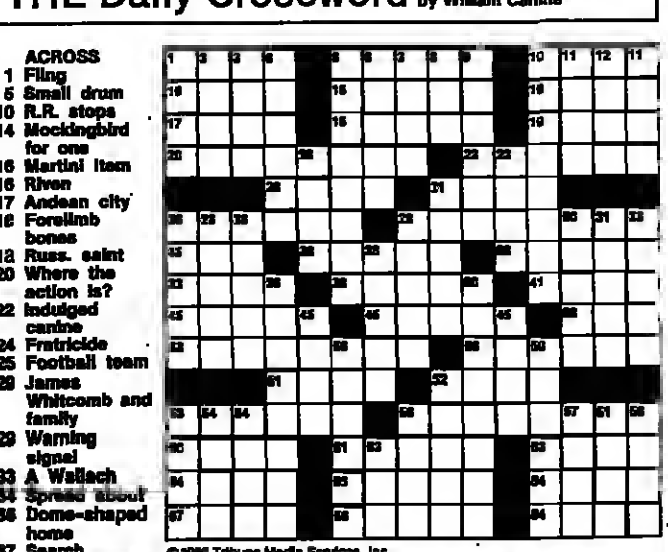
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Hairy peas, green cheese and petrified bologna for lunch. Cleaned the fridge today, huh?"

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Fling	5. Visitors in town	43. Carrillo end	54. Positive
2. Small drum	6. Part of EAP	44. Germ	55. Eng. school
3. R.R. stops	7. Sweet cherry	45. Trito stuff	56. 562
4. Mockingbird	8. Eggs	46. Macaque	57. Bread spread
5. on	9. Staggered	47. Angler's lure	58. Put on
6. Martial item	10. Traffic controller	48. Polish city	59. Neck part
7. Riven	11. Related	49. Discrimination	62. Refuge
8. Andean city	12. Jason's vessel		
9. Fowl-like	13. Stumbling		
10. home	14. Lino		
11. Russ. saint	15. Latin music		
12. Where the action is?	16. Insect		
13. Indulged	17. Harvest		
14. canine	18. Archangel		
15. Frischie	19. Summary		
16. Football team	20. Honor cards		
17. James Whitcomb and family	21. Lizard		
18. signal	22. Long ago		
19. A Wallace			
20. Spread about			
21. Dome-shaped			
22. home			
23. Search			
24. Store events			
25. — Scotia			
26. Invalids			
27. Pertaining to			
28. Flower garden			
29. Pedestrian			
30. Widows' lots			
31. Loosely			
32. "Goriot"			
33. Negana carrier			
34. Site of 20A			
35. Lino			
36. Latin music			
37. Insect			
38. Harvest			
39. Archangel			
40. Summary			
41. Honor cards			
42. Lizard			
43. Long ago			
44. DOWN			
1. Tranquil			
2. Samoan			
3. Rig type			
4. Dazed state			

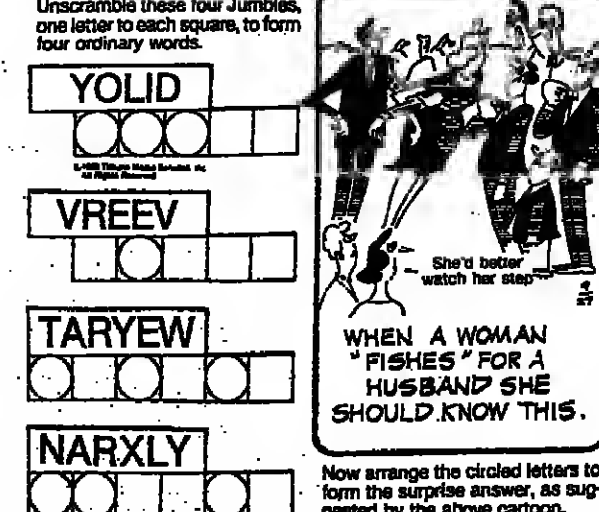
Answers tomorrow!

Yesterday's Jumble: RAPID HAREM KINGLY TYCOON

Answer: "They're complaining that the lamb is tough." — "LET'S NOT TALK CHOP"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



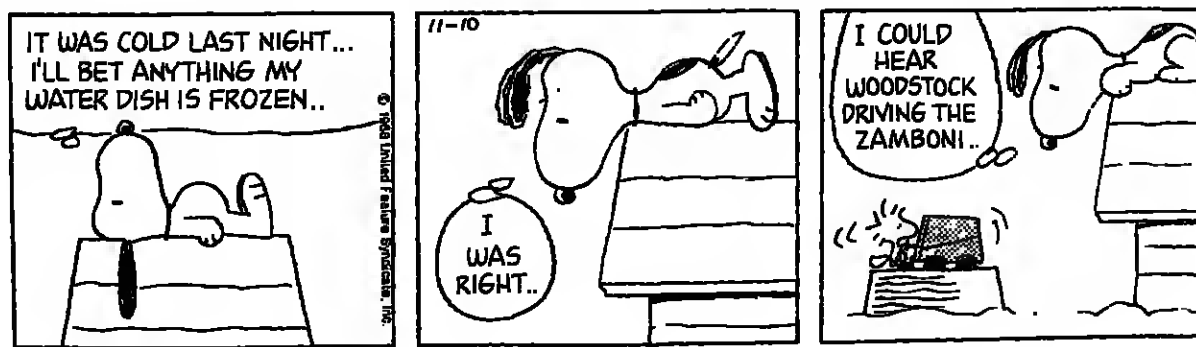
Answer: WHERE THE

Answers tomorrow!

Yesterday's Jumble: RAPID HAREM KINGLY TYCOON

Answer: "They're complaining that the lamb is tough." — "LET'S NOT TALK CHOP"

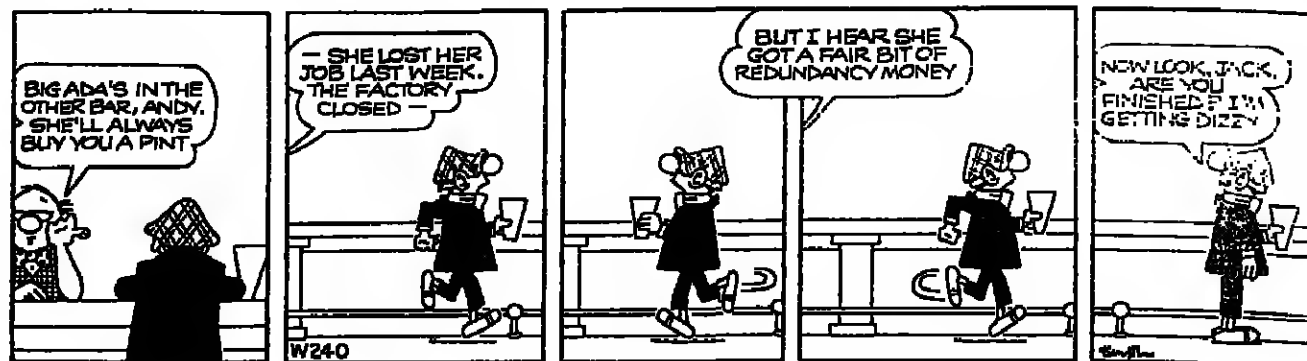
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Soviet party leaders debate reforms ahead of parliament

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party leadership, facing a major challenge to its authority from restive republics, met Monday to discuss constitutional changes before they are debated by the country's parliament.

The official news agency TASS said the plenary meeting of the party Central Committee was being addressed by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who has urged support for the proposed constitutional amendments at Tuesday's session of the Supreme Soviet, the federal parliament.

The meeting was closed but foreign analysts said Gorbachev would be seeking a firm endorsement of the reforms, a major plank of his "perestroika" programme, from the party's policy-making body.

The plans have met a barrage of criticism from some of the Soviet Union's 15 constituent republics who argue that they encroach on their rights to self-determination.

The proposals are virtually certain to be approved by the parliament — which will be replaced under the reforms by a more powerful, streamlined body — but not without an uncharacteristically lively debate, the analysts said.

Estonia, which has been at the forefront of a drive for greater economic and political autonomy among the Soviet Baltic republics,

has rejected the proposals outright. Its parliament also voted to assume the right to veto central legislation.

Parliamentary sessions in the neighbouring republics of Latvia and Lithuania stopped short of such defiance of Moscow but also called for changes in the proposals.

Similar demands came from the Georgian parliament in Soviet Transcaucasia, a region already racked by ethnic strife, in what some analysts see as the most serious challenge to the unity of the Soviet Union since World War II.

Gorbachev, in a speech to republican presidents shown on television Sunday, accused the Estonian leadership of making theoretical and political errors and rejected the republic's blueprint for broad autonomy as "erroneous and invalid."

"There is only one aim, comrades, we are one family, we have a common home and we have accomplished much thanks to a concerted effort," he declared.

Pointing an accusing finger at Estonian President Arnold Ruutel, he said the republic's

leaders had not adequately explained to the people where their autonomy plans could lead.

But he also said the central leadership had taken into account many objections to the proposals, which had subsequently undergone a thorough revision. It was not clear to what extent the revised version met the demands of the republics.

Ethnic unrest

Gorbachev also referred to the persistent unrest in the Transcaucasian republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, at loggerheads for the past nine months over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory.

He accused "nationalist extremists" in the two republics of attempting to exploit the processes of democratisation and openness under way in the country for "political speculation."

Rumours spreading through Azerbaijan that the coming parliamentary session would hand over Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia were the apparent cause of a fresh wave of inter-ethnic violence in the republic.

Troops were called in to the city of Kirovabad and Nakhichevan region last Tuesday to prevent attacks on Armenians by crowds of angry Azerbaijanis. At least 10 people, three of them soldiers, were killed in the ensuing clashes.

Azerbaijani officials in Kirovabad, where the worst violence occurred, said Monday the city was calm, although troops were still keeping a tight grip on the situation.

A city Communist Party official, Chingiz Sadykhov, said soldiers were guarding all entry points to the Armenian quarter: "there have been no Armenian casualties, because we are not letting Azeris into their part of the city," he said.

Curfews are in force in several parts of Azerbaijan including the capital, Baku, where hundreds of thousands of people have taken part in anti-Armenian demonstrations over the past nine days.

ASALA issues threat

The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) said Monday that it will "avenge" what it said were brutalities against Armenians by Azerbaijanis.

"The Armenian Secret Army assures to the Armenian people and the international public opinion that our organisation will take revenge for the blood of innocent and defenceless Armenian citizens who in the last one week were victims of Azeri chauvinist circles," a man claiming to speak on behalf of the guerrilla group said in a telephoned statement to an international news agency in London.

Pakistani People's Party (PPP) leader Benazir Bhutto holds talks with Mohajir National Movement leader Altaf Hussain in Karachi. It is expected

that an alliance with the Mohajirs will enable Bhutto to come up with a majority in parliament and form the next government.

Zia successor to be chosen Dec. 12; Punjab battle still open

ISLAMABAD (R) — A new Pakistani president will be elected Dec. 12 to succeed military ruler Muhammad Zia ul Haq who died in a plane crash last August, the government election commission announced Monday.

Chief Election Commissioner S.A. Nasrat told a news conference nominations would be received Dec. 6, four days after a new prime minister is to take office.

Senate (Upper House) Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan became acting president when Zia died Aug. 17 in a crash officials say was probably caused by sabotage.

The new president, with vast constitutional powers, will be elected for a four-year term by members of parliament and the four provincial assemblies.

Zia, who seized power in a 1977 coup, was declared president after a 1984 referendum. In general elections Nov. 16 Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won 45 per cent of the Muslim seats in the

National Assembly (lower house) compared to 27 per cent for the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA).

Ishaq Khan is due to name a prime minister Thursday, with Bhutto the main contender.

Bhutto, seeking to become the Muslim World's first woman prime minister, said last week her PPP would not press for a "party candidate" for president when Ishaq Khan steps down.

Political analysts have speculated she could support Ishaq Khan for reelection to reassure the armed forces, who overthrew her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in the 1977 coup.

The Pakistani constitution empowers the president to name a prime minister, dissolve the National Assembly and appoint chiefs of the armed forces.

Ishaq Khan has not indicated publicly who he will choose as prime minister. But almost all political analysts and western diplomats say it seems certain

to be Bhutto.

The battle for control of the Punjab provincial government, however, is still open. The IDA beat the PPP into second place in Punjab in provincial elections Nov. 19 but fell short of a majority.

Punjab contains 55 per cent of Pakistan's 104 million people and the post of chief minister, to be chosen by the elected provincial deputies this Friday, is very powerful.

The current chief minister, appointed by Zia, is Nawaz Sharif, the IDA's most prominent figure. Both sides have been seeking to woo the independents who hold the balance of power in the Punjab assembly.

The PPP is putting up one of its strongest candidates, Farooq Leghari, party Secretary-General Tikka Khan announced Monday.

Leghari was production minister in Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's last federal cabinet and PPP secretary general in 1981-84.

Philippine forces stay on alert

MANILA (Agencies) — Troops and police remained on alert Monday against large public gatherings after officials blocked convoys carrying thousands of civilians into Manila to distribute leaflets calling for a coup.

Colonel Manuel Ozaola, deputy chief of the National Capital Region Defence Command, said leaders of Saturday's convoy planned to duplicate the 1986 "people power" uprising that toppled President Ferdinand Marcos.

Ozaola said the leader of the convoy, Jose Ocampo, was carrying a document offering rewards of up to four million pesos (\$200,000) for the capture of senior military officers who refused to join the "uprising."

"The situation now is normal," Ozaola said. "But the military is on alert to prevent any further attempt."

Officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said convoy leaders carried leaflets announcing a military overthrow of Presi-

dent Corason Aquino's government. But they said there was no evidence that any soldiers joined the move.

Ozaola said the military was preparing subversion charges against Ocampo. Ozaola said a document seized from Ocampo promised four million pesos (\$200,000) for the capture of military chief of staff General Renato de Villa if he refused to join the protest.

Lesser rewards were promised for the capture of other generals and colonels, Ozaola said.

Military reports said the incident began about 5 p.m. (0900 GMT) Saturday when about 400 people aboard several vehicles began distributing the leaflets in Cavite province southeast of Manila.

Later Saturday, troops blocked more than 30 vehicles carrying hundreds of civilians in several parts of Greater Manila. Most of those detained were released within a few hours, the military said.

Aquino told reporters Monday that she did not consider the incident a coup attempt. Authorities have foiled a half dozen coup attempts against Aquino, who came to power after a civilian-military uprising in February 1986 that toppled Marcos.

Newsweek interview

Aquino said her government is no longer endangered by the Communist insurgency or right-wing coups and can now focus on economic development, Newsweek International magazine reported Sunday.

Interviewed last week on the 1,000th day of her presidency, Aquino said the insurgency was not her biggest problem.

"We have weakened the communist insurgents considerably with the capture of their top leaders. It is only now that we are finally able to see the benefits that came about because of the (1986) ceasefire."



Corason Aquino

the opportunity to hear what government had to offer. In the past they were only subjected to the propaganda of the communists in the mountains."

She also told Newsweek that after her government survived the attempted coup in August 1987, "it was very clear to me that it would be very difficult for the rightist elements to stage another powerful attempt."

"In the next 1,000 days I will be concentrating on economic development."

Mexico's ruling party grapples with divisions

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has ruled Mexico for almost 60 years, is fighting to retain its grip even as its presidential candidate, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, prepares to be sworn in.

To overcome public discontent, internal party divisions and newly aggressive opposition, Salinas will have to strike quickly on both the economic and political fronts after he takes office Thursday.

"The PRI is in a battle to modernise the country... and itself," said Juan Enriquez, the party's international communications director.

The party has ruled with few challenges since its founding in 1929, interlocked with the government in a system that allowed

its tentacles to reach every nook and cranny of society. It turned out the vote and channelled favours, including high-level jobs, and in many places succumbed to corruption.

It also brought decades of stability and expansion to Mexico, but its power has been shaken by a continuing economic crisis that has cut the average Mexican's earning power by 50 per cent since 1980. Salinas scraped by in the July 6 presidential election with just over 50 per cent of the vote, compared with the 70 per cent or more that previous PRI candidates had polled.

Still, the party remains powerful, taking sweeping victories in municipal elections in several provinces since October. Despite accusations of fraud most of the

wins are recognised as genuine. For almost 60 years the PRI's pillars — labour, peasants and a catchall of bureaucrats, teachers and others — have wheeled and dealt, sharing leadership, power and the rewards of power.

"The PRI was a type of cushion between the political power and the citizens," said Raul Trejo, a professor at the National University's social research institute and a labour specialist.

With transition from a largely illiterate rural population to an urban society came a political awakening, a desire for more competitive elections and an end to corruption. In response, PRI governments gave more opportunities, including congressional seats, to the small opposition

parties. Adding to the discontent was the jolt of an economic crisis brought on by the oil boom and bust. Outgoing President Miguel de la Madrid's six-year term has been a period of austerity for most Mexicans.

On July 6, the PRI was stung with its narrowest federal election win ever.

The PRI lost Senate seats, four of the body's 64, for the first time. It had to settle for 260 of the 500 seats in the lower house, the first time it failed to gain a two-thirds majority needed for constitutional reforms.

The opposition — both the conservatives and the left — charged electoral fraud and that Salinas' victory wasn't legitimate.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Police find 226 kg of heroin in truck

VAN, Turkey (AP) — Narcotics police have discovered 226 kilograms of Iranian heroin hidden in a truck that had been driven over a dam to prevent seizure by police, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said Sunday. The agency said police first stopped the vehicle in eastern Turkey Nov. 13 and discovered 100 kilograms of heroin. Before police could complete the search, the driver drove the truck over the Zernek Dam. Anatolia said five Turks have been arrested for alleged drug dealing in connection with the heroin found on the truck. The vehicle was pulled from the water Saturday and the agency said police found 20 kilograms of heroin. It said Sunday police found 106 kilograms hidden in a special section in the truck. Anatolia said the heroin, which was brought to Turkey from Iran to be shipped to Europe, had a street value of 35 billion Turkish liras (\$20 million).

Air disaster remains a mystery

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Exactly a year after South Africa's worst air disaster, in which a Boeing 747 plunged into the Indian Ocean killing 160 people, the world's deepest ocean search for wreckage is finally producing results, Pretoria said Monday. The government said a large piece of the South African Airways jet had been seen on the ocean floor near Mauritius where the aircraft went down on a flight from Taipei. Other bits of wreckage had been found, including parts of an engine and pieces of the galley, wings and the cargo compartment floor. But there is no sign of the two flight recorders which could give clues to the disaster.

Britain to buy U.S. tanks

LONDON (AP) — The government plans to re-equip the British army with a new generation of U.S.-built battle tanks, a decision that could destroy the British tank industry, the Daily Telegraph reported Monday. The London daily newspaper, quoting unidentified defence industry sources, said the Abrams M1A1 tank, built in Michigan by General Dynamics, has been chosen over the Challenger Mark II tank, manufactured by Vickers PLC in

northern England. The newspaper said the order for more than £1 billion (at least \$2 billion) for 500 tanks to replace Britain's ageing home-made Chieftains is expected to be announced Dec. 15 in an attempt to lessen the controversy. On the following day, the House of Commons is scheduled to break for the Christmas recess.

Ex-Dominican president convicted

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Former President Salvador Jorge Blanco and two businessmen were found guilty Sunday of corruption for inflating the price of military supplies sold to the government by \$5 million. It was the first time in Dominican history that a former head of state was convicted on charges of corruption. Judge Juan Maria Severino sentenced the former president and businessmen Leonel Almonte and Juan Tomas Pena Valentin to 20 years in prison and ordered them to pay a fine of \$17.3 million. Defence attorneys said they would appeal the convictions. Six of eight other alleged co-conspirators in the case were found innocent and the other two were to be tried separately on the same charges.

Salvador Dali hospitalised

FIGUERAS, Spain (R) — Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dali was taken to hospital from his castle home Sunday suffering from influenza, hospital staff said. Dali, 84, had been ill for several days, they said, adding that the hospital would issue a bulletin on the painter's health Monday. The hospital director, one of Dali's personal doctors, said Dali might have to stay in hospital for at least a week. Dali fell into a deep mental and physical decline after the death of his wife, Gala, in 1982. Since then, he has lived as a recluse in his castle near Figueras, in northern Spain. He was badly burned in a fire that engulfed his bedroom in 1984. Dali is one of the last surviving members of the generation of surrealist artists who shocked and scandalised the art world in the 1920s and 1930s. Dali is best known for his dream-like paintings that frequently include "Soft Watches" — timepieces that droop over tables and landscapes, representing according to the painter the relativity of time and space.

900 feared dead in Thailand

BANGKOK (Agencies) — The Thai government set up a 500 million baht (\$20 million) disaster fund Monday as officials said more than 900 people may have died in floods that engulfed the south of the country in the last week.

Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan told reporters 429 bodies had been recovered. A spokesman for the relief coordinating centre in Hat Yai in the south said about 500 people were still missing.

Reporters who flew over the stricken area said people were still pulling bodies out of the piles of logs, debris and sticky mud that lay two metres deep on a valley to the west of Nakhorn Si

Thammarat, the worst-affected area.

Agriculture Minister Sanan Kachoraprasart, reacting to charges that unrestrained logging had caused the mudslides, announced his ministry would try to halt the disappearance of the country's forests by granting no more logging concessions.

Environmentalists say forest covers only about 12 per cent of Thailand and that this will disappear unless the government stops both illegal loggers and the cutting in concessions already granted.

Many southern areas were still under water, with families stranded on the roofs of their homes and kept alive by supplies

brought by ferry and helicopter.

The cabinet approved the disaster fund after hearing reports that 640,000 hectares of farmland were inundated, more than 150,000 cattle lost and that damage was estimated at three billion baht (\$120 million).

"We need aid from foreign countries," Chatichai said after the emergency cabinet meeting. The United States and Britain provided initial assistance Monday with relief checks totalling \$43,400.

The same weather system that battered southern Thailand moved through Malaysia a few days earlier, killing 31 people and forcing tens of thousands from their homes.

Police, protesters clash in anti-Ershad demonstration

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Helmeted policemen fired tear gas at bomb-throwing demonstrators outside Dhaka University Monday during a half-day general strike against President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, witnesses said.

At least five people, including a policeman, were injured by fragments from the small, home-made bombs, police said. Twenty people had been arrested by the time the strike ended at noon, according to the police, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The strike was sponsored by two of Bangladesh's main opposition groups as part of their year-long effort to force Ershad to resign.

The city of six million people was generally calm except around Dhaka University, where police confronted roving bands of youths who threw stones, bricks and homemade bombs.

Paramilitary troops in trucks patrolled the streets. About 50 protesters hurled small bombs that generally exploded harmlessly in the street in front of the university's arts building, witnesses said.

Police responded by firing at least a dozen tear gas shells to disperse the bomb-throwers, according to Mohammad Alam, a photographer for the Bengali-language newspaper Ittefaq.

The strike was called by Jamaat-E-Islamic, a Muslim fun-

damentalist party, and a seven-party alliance led by Khaleda Zia, head of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

The third main opposition group, an eight-party alliance headed by Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League, did not join the strike but planned to hold rallies across the nation as part of what it called "resistance day against the autocratic regime."

Zia and Hasina put aside their personal differences a year ago to cooperate in an "Ershad-must-go campaign." Their series of often-violent strikes failed to budge the former army general, leaving the opposition divided and fractious. Zia and Hasina blamed each other for the failure

Advice abounds for Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect George Bush is getting advice from aides and former presidents and from think tanks and lobbyists in reports that stretch from 50 to 1,000 pages with covers that range from nonsense to navy to peppermint striped.

Much of the advice is unsolicited, and much goes unheeded and unread, no matter how flashy the cover or how hard the pitch.

"Whether they get a hearing depends entirely on their political clout," said Stephen Hess, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "If they're read at all, they will be read by pretty low-level transition people."

Many of the reports are "done for other reasons than influencing the president-elect, like getting news media publicity," he says. Advising an incoming administration has become a cottage industry, in part due to the success of the conservative Heritage

Foundation's 1980 "Mandate for Leadership," which was a blueprint for much of the agenda of President Reagan's first term.

The transition is a "seminal period in a presidency," said Stuart E. Eizenstat, who was a top domestic policy aide to former President Jimmy Carter.

"The legislative priorities, the budget you develop, have a great deal to say about the first year and indeed your entire term. People have begun to realise that," he said.

Here's a sampling of the dozens of books, magazines, pamphlets, reports, letters, panel discussions and briefings.

The Heritage Foundation has published a 953-page "Mandate for Leadership III," that updates its past policy prescriptions. Heritage advised Bush, among other things, to give his Vice-President, Dan Quayle, a key role in dealing with Congress, and give short, businesslike State of the Union speeches. The foundation also supplied the resumes of more than 10,000 conservatives it would like in the new administration.

The Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a moderate think tank, packaged its 50 pages of advice on the transition process in bright red with a white stripe across the corner. The document has been dubbed "the peppermint papers."

Former Presidents Carter and Gerald Ford offered recommendations on ways to reduce the federal deficit by cutting spending and raising taxes on beer, wine, cigarettes and motor fuel.

COLUMN

Free legal clothing

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — As a public defender, Connie McGhee has provided legal advice for years; now she's started offering clothes as well. A public defender is a lawyer hired by the government to represent alleged criminals who are too poor to hire an attorney. Because her clients are poor, many of them are badly dressed, which defence attorneys have long recognised can influence a judge and jury. McGhee said she's seen defendants reprimanded by judges because of their attire. So McGhee and another public defender, Melody Merola, organised a clothes service in a hall closet.

French prince weds Italian noblewoman

FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — In a private ceremony before 500 invited guests, Prince Charles Louis d'Arenberg of France was married Saturday to Flaminia Frescobaldi, daughter of Marchese Vittorio Frescobaldi of Italy. While a crowd gathered outside in the courtyard, the 31-year-old groom and his 30-year-old bride exchanged vows inside the 15th century church of Santo Spirito, decorated for the occasion with garlands of white carnations and baskets of white roses.

Swiss way to boil an egg

ZURICH (R) — Switzerland is renowned for its top-class chefs and catering schools, but that has not stopped civil servants from offering their countrymen some very basic cooking tips. "But the eggs in one centimetre of cold water in a saucepan with a tight-fitting lid. Bring to the boil, switch off the heat immediately and let the eggs continue to boil for the desired time. Et voila." This lesson in how to boil eggs the government-approved way comes from the Federal Energy Department in Bern. It is part of a new campaign, codenamed "Bravo," urging the Swiss to be sparing with energy in the kitchen and at work. Newspaper and television advertisements suggest energy-saving ways of cooking eggs, meat and vegetables and recommend the use of pressure-cookers and micro-wave ovens.

Chinese film wins 'Golden Toucan'

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A Chinese film won the "Golden Toucan" award Saturday for best picture, and two Yugoslavian actors and a French director took top prizes at the fifth International Film Festival. The film "The Actress and the Spirit" by director Huang Shugun, beat out festival favourites such as "Le Maitre de Musique," by Belgian director Gerard Corbiau, and the German entry "Die Venusfalle," (The Venus Trap) by director Robert van Ackeren. Fourteen films from 13 countries were in the running for best-picture award during Rio's nine-day event, considered among the world's top film festivals. None of the films had competed before in the festival, but all have been shown commercially.

Animal group sets fire to fur store

SANTA ROSA, California (AP) — An animal rights group has claimed responsibility for a blaze at a fur store that missed valuable pelts but ruined a Santa Claus outfit. No one was injured in the major Thursday fire at Del Conte's furs. A statement read of the AP by a caller claiming to be part of a group called the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) said the fur industry is "a perverse business which needlessly murders millions animals each year to provide humans with deplorable status symbols. The ALF will continue its war against this Naziism until the bloody fur trade is abolished from our society forever."

Montreal prostitute must pay taxes

OTTAWA, Canada (AP) — The tax court of Canada has ruled that a Montreal prostitute must pay tax on income of about \$1 million earned from 1974 to 1981. The court dismissed Erna Dietrich's appeal and said she must pay more than \$70,000 in penalties for not declaring her real income. Dietrich declared income of \$41,000 for the eight-year period. But Revenue Canada found she made \$234,312 in 1980 alone. The Canadian revenue service said her net worth rose from \$11,273 in 1973 to more than \$1 million by 1982. The revenue service said she was convicted six to eight times in the period on prostitution-related charges.